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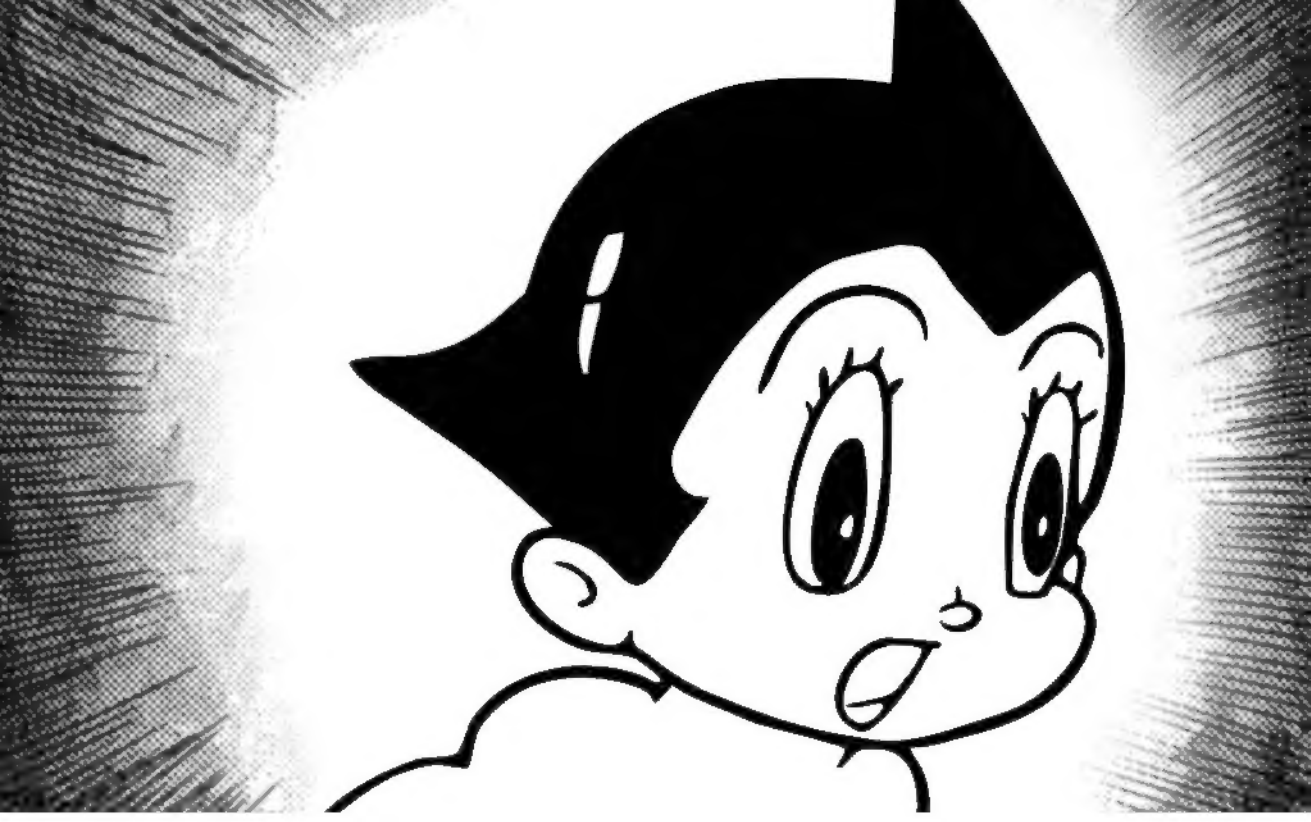
Osamu Tezuka's Original
ASTRO BOY®



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ASTRO BOY®

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ASTRO BOY® VOLUME 3

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A NOTE TO Readers

Many non-Japanese, including people from Africa and Southeast Asia, appear in Osamu Tezuka's works. Sometimes these people are depicted very differently from the way they actually are today, in a manner that exaggerates a time long past or shows them to be from extremely undeveloped lands. Some feel that such images contribute to racial discrimination, especially against people of African descent. This was never Osamu Tezuka's intent, but we believe that as long as there are people who feel insulted or demeaned by these depictions, we must not ignore their feelings.

We are against discrimination, in all its forms, and intend to continue to work for its elimination. Nonetheless, we do not believe it would be proper to revise these works. Tezuka is no longer with us, and we cannot erase what he has done, and to alter his work would only violate his rights as a creator. More importantly, stopping publication or changing the content of his work would do little to solve the problems of discrimination that exist in the world.

We are presenting Osamu Tezuka's work as it was originally created, without changes. We do this because we believe it is also important to promote the underlying themes in his work, such as love for mankind and the sanctity of life. We hope that when you, the reader, encounter this work, you will keep in mind the differences in attitudes, then and now, toward discrimination, and that this will contribute to an even greater awareness of such problems.

— Tezuka Productions and Dark Horse Comics

THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH

First serialized between June 1964 and January 1965 in *Shonen* magazine.

AH, *PLUTO*... BY A FARAWAY VOLCANO,
WHERE THE EARTH SPLITS OPEN BENEATH
A SHIMMERING LAYER OF MIST AND CLOUDS...
YOU WERE SMASHED AND SCATTERED...
GONE FOREVER...

YOU LIVED THE LIFE GIVEN YOU
WITHOUT HESITATION, SELF-DOUBT,
SHAME, OR RESENTMENT...
YOU CARRIED OUT YOUR DUTY,
AND THEN YOU WERE GONE...

AH, *MONT BLANC*...

AH, *NORTH #2*...

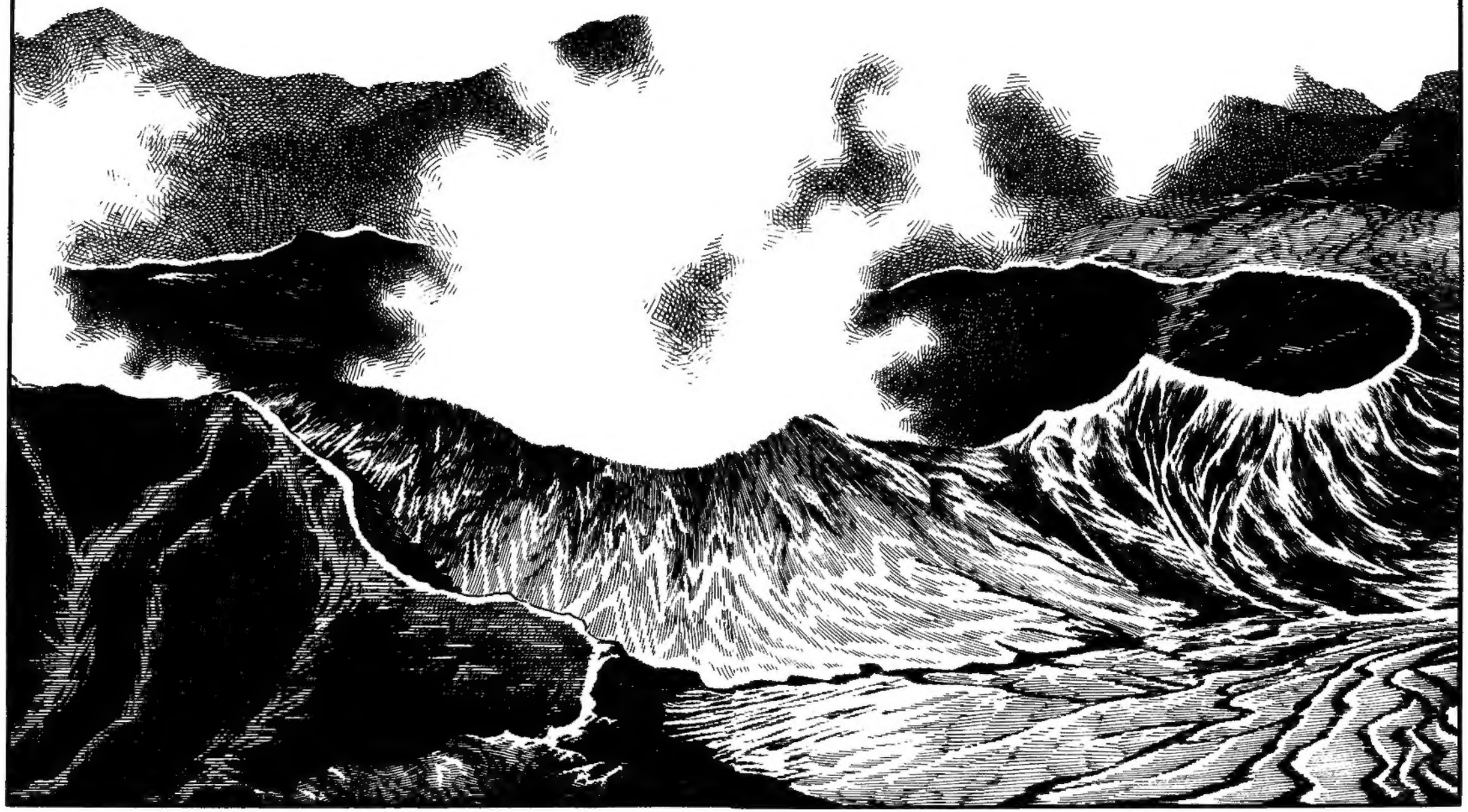
AH, *BRANDO*...

AH, *GERHARDT*...

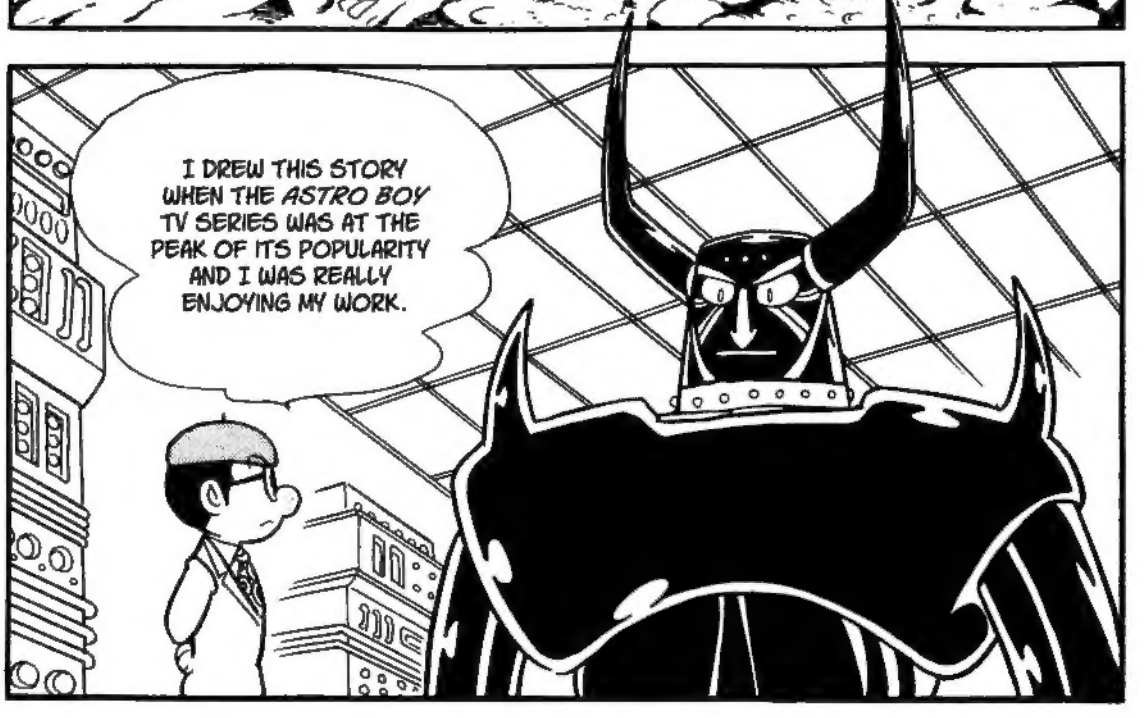
AH, *HERCULES*...

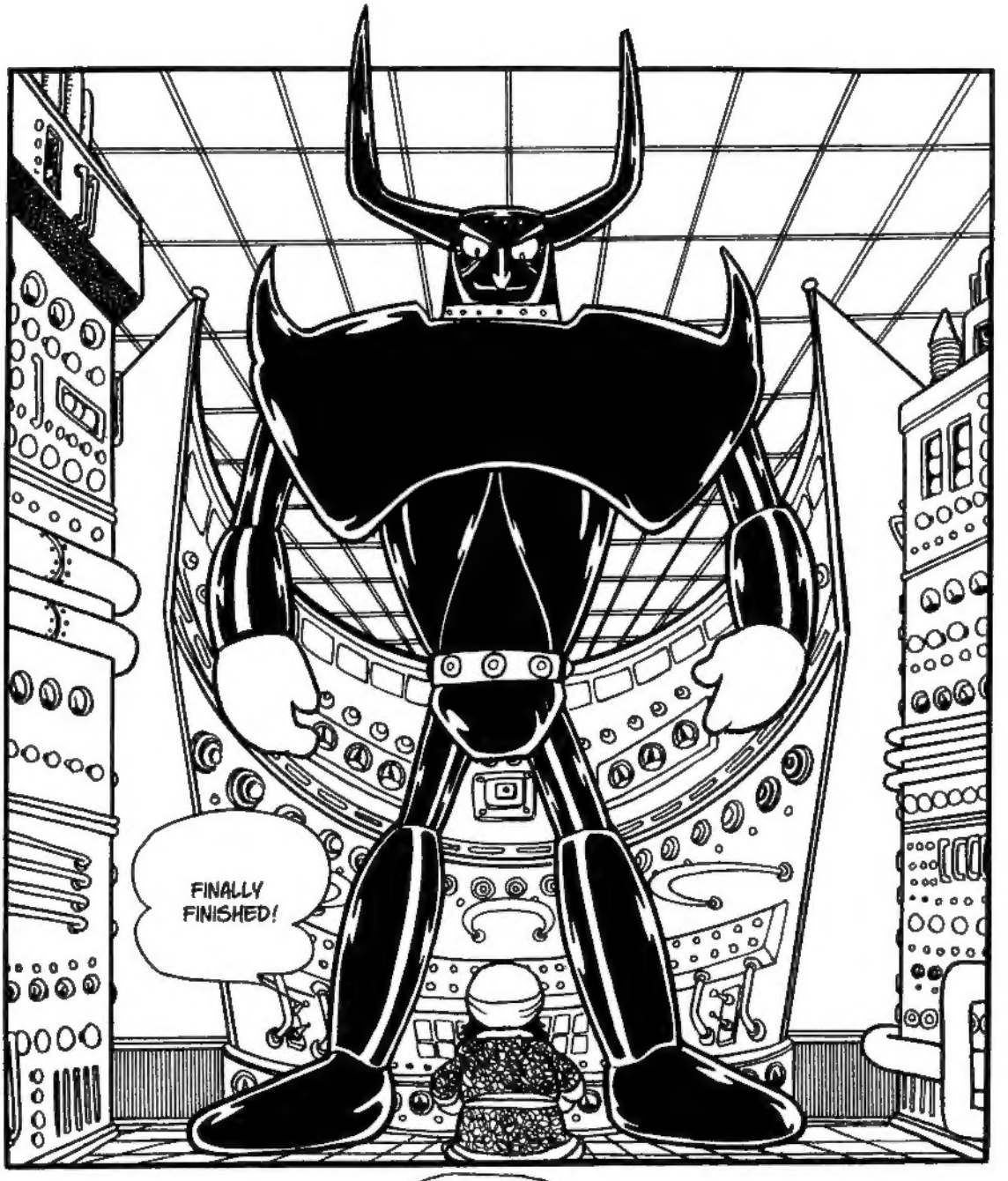
AH, *EPSILON*...

WHEN WILL THEY SIT IN
JUDGEMENT OF THE HUMANS
WHO CREATED TEMPORARY
LIFE, OUT OF A LIMITLESS
LUST FOR POWER AND CONTROL,
AND THEN DESTROYED IT?



"THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROBOT" PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR STORIES I DREW FOR THE *ASTRO BOY* SERIES. LOTS OF READERS EXCITEDLY FOLLOWED THE BATTLES BETWEEN PLUTO AND OTHER ROBOTS. BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO MAKE PLUTO A COMPLETELY EVIL ROBOT, SO WHEN HE FINALLY WAS DESTROYED I RECEIVED TONS OF PROTEST LETTERS.


I DREW THIS STORY WHEN THE *ASTRO BOY* TV SERIES WAS AT THE PEAK OF ITS POPULARITY AND I WAS REALLY ENJOYING MY WORK.

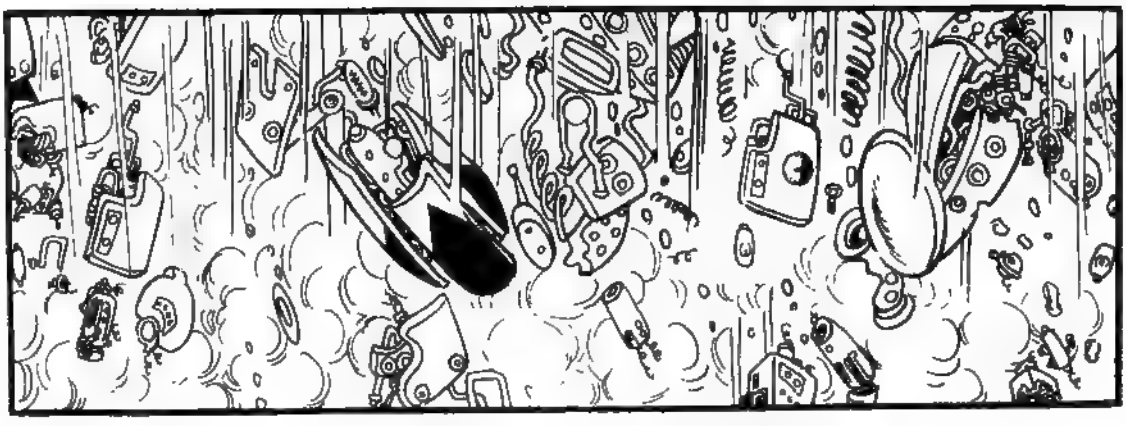

FINALLY FINISHED!

I HEREBY NAME YOU *PLUTO*...

I CREATED YOU, PLUTO, TO BE THE KING OF THE ROBOTS!
SEE HERE? THIS SHOWS THE SEVEN STRONGEST ROBOTS IN THE WORLD...
IF YOU CAN DEFEAT ALL SEVEN, NOTHING IN THE WHOLE WORLD CAN TOUCH YOU!
I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING KING OF THE WORLD, AND IF I CAN'T ACHIEVE MY GOAL, I CAN AT LEAST HAVE YOU ATTAIN IT FOR ME...
SMASH!
AFTER YOU DEFEAT THE SEVEN ROBOTS, YOU SHALL DECLARE YOURSELF KING OF THE ROBOT WORLD AND RULE OVER ALL THE ROBOTS ON EARTH. NOW, GO FORTH!

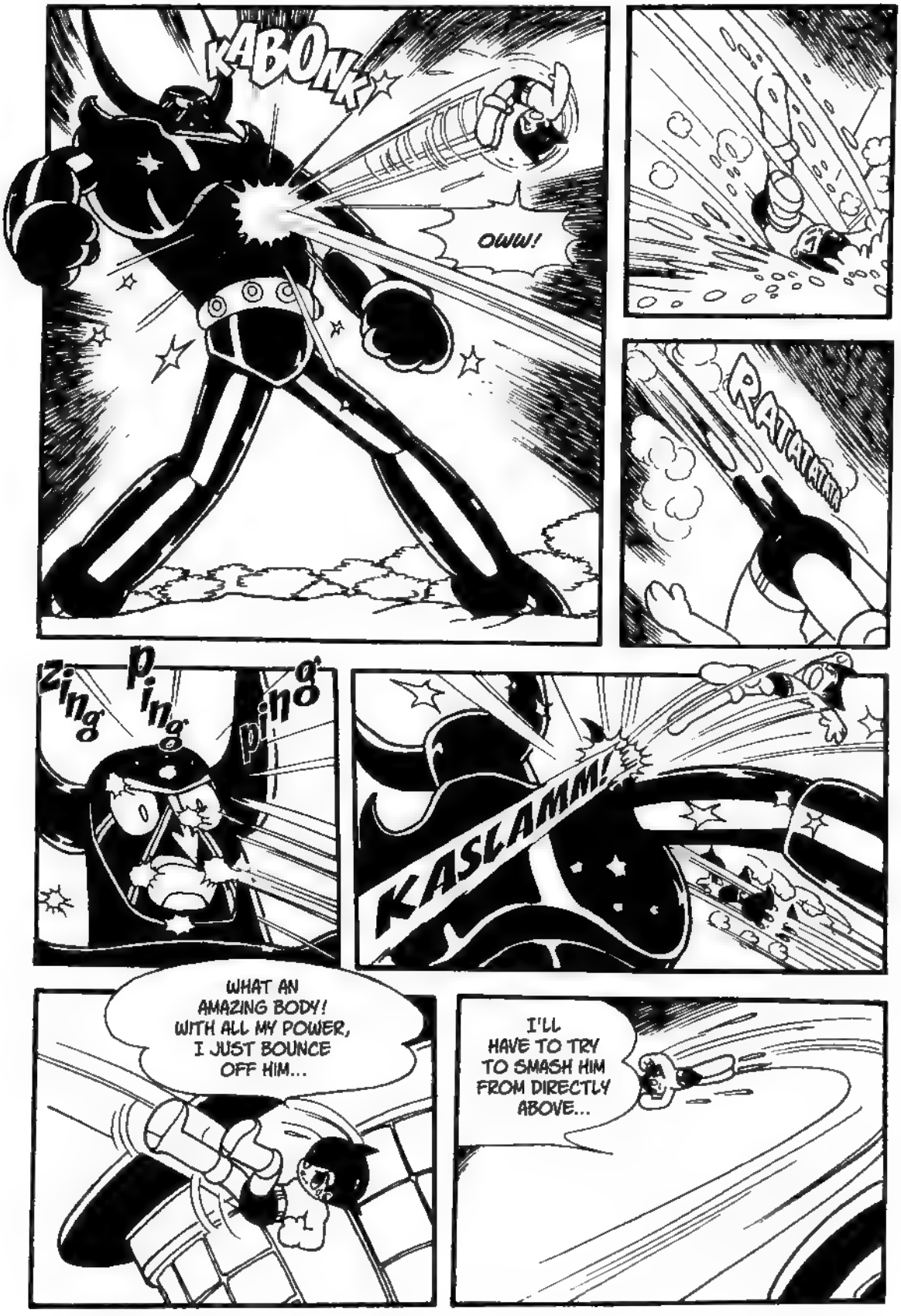
WHO MIGHT YOU BE, SIR, AND HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
ARE YOU *MONT BLANC*, THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE ROBOT? THE PRIDE OF SWITZERLAND, WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER?
WELL, YES... BUT I DON'T HAVE 100,000 HORSE-POWER. I'VE ACTUALLY GOT 135,000!
OMPH...! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SLAM
ARGH!!

ZAAAP



THAT'S ONE DOWN...
NEXT ON THE LIST IS ASTRO BOY, A JAPANESE ROBOT MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER!

THE FAMOUS SWISS MOUNTAIN GUIDE ROBOT, MONT BLANC, HAS SUDDENLY BEEN PULVERIZED. AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE THE WORK OF ANOTHER ROBOT....
MONT BLANC? HE'S THAT FAMOUS 100,000 HORSEPOWER ROBOT, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY, AND IF HE WAS DESTROYED BY ANOTHER ROBOT....
...IT'D MEAN THE OTHER ROBOT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE MORE THAN 100,000 HORSE-POWER, RIGHT?
ARE YOU THE ROBOT NAMED ASTRO BOY?
WHO ARE YOU?!
UH OH... THE TV PICTURE'S SUDDENLY BREAKING UP...
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING OUTSIDE CAUSING INTERFER-ENCE!
IF YOU'RE ASTRO BOY, COME OUT! I WANT TO DUEL!
WELL?! WHAT'S THE MATTER? AFRAID? A COWARDLY ROBOT?
ASTRO! DON'T GO OUTSIDE! STOP!

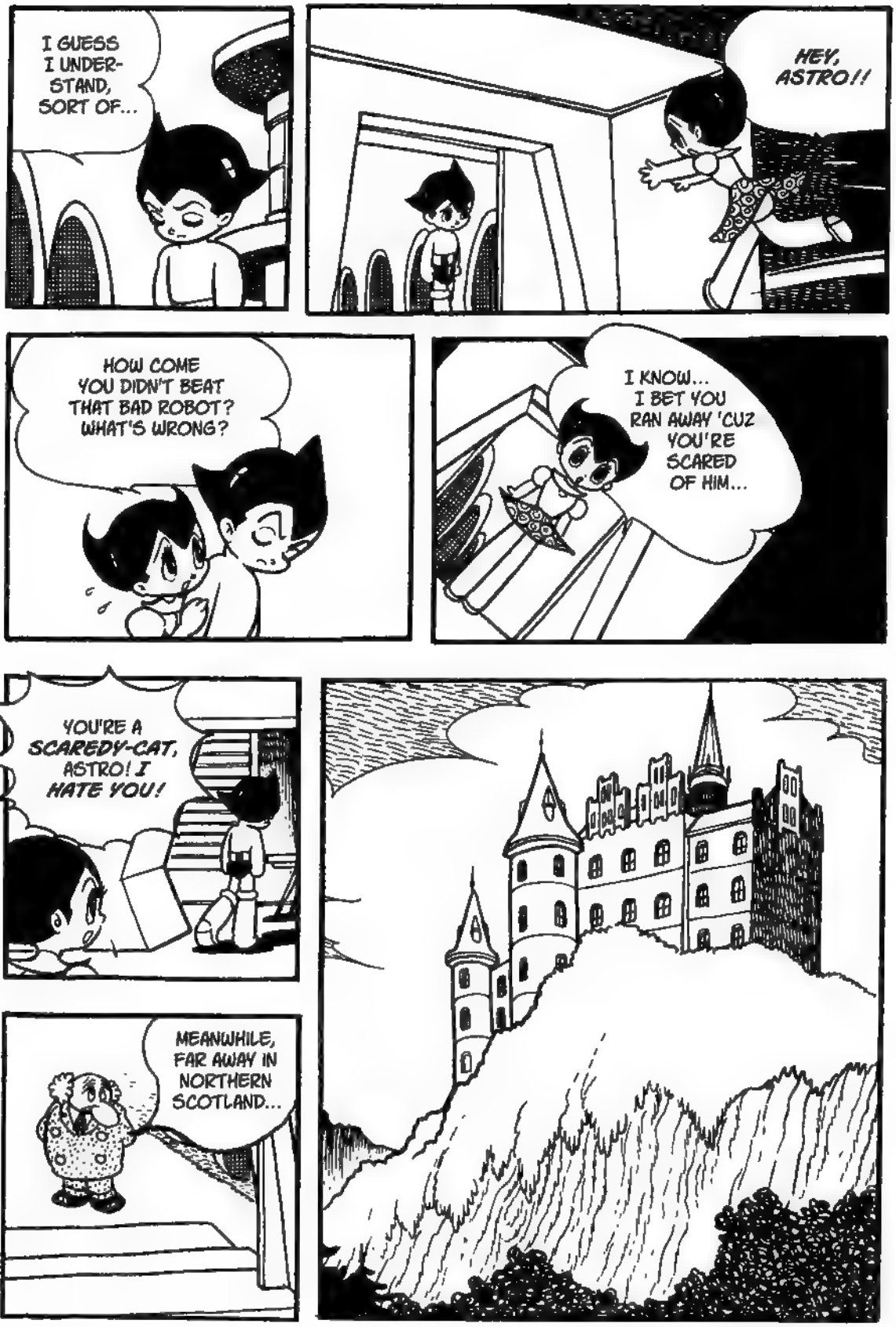

KABONK
OWW!
RATATATA
zing
ping
ping
KASLAMM!
WHAT AN AMAZING BODY! WITH ALL MY POWER, I JUST BOUNCE OFF HIM...
I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO SMASH HIM FROM DIRECTLY ABOVE...

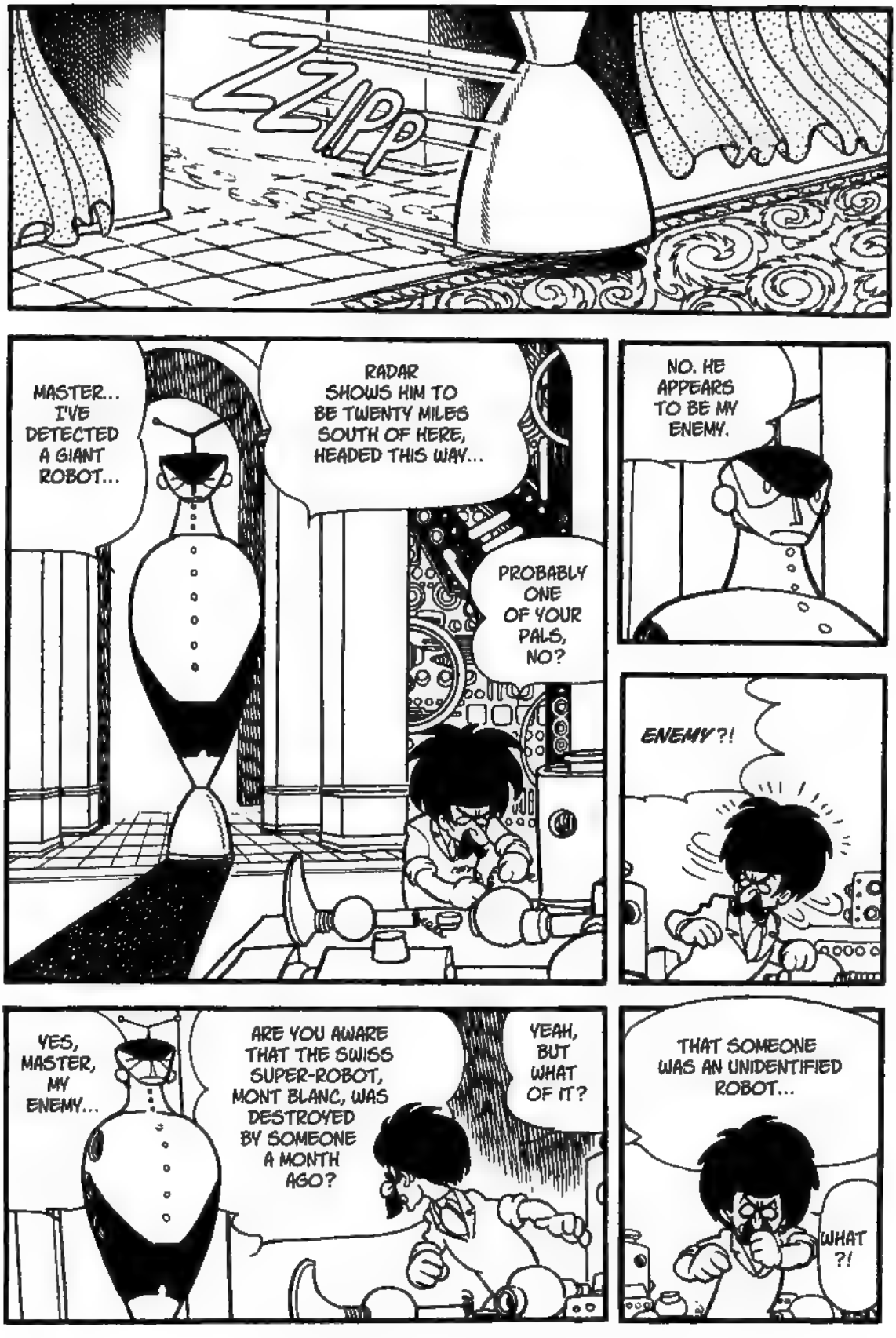
OKAY, BIG BOY! I'LL TEACH YOU TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME!!
ZAAAP
ASTRO! STOP, I TELL YOU! STOP!
ASTRO! LISTEN TO ME! STOP!! LEAVE HIM TO ME!!
HMPH...
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU LOOK LIKE A FOREIGN-MADE ROBOT...

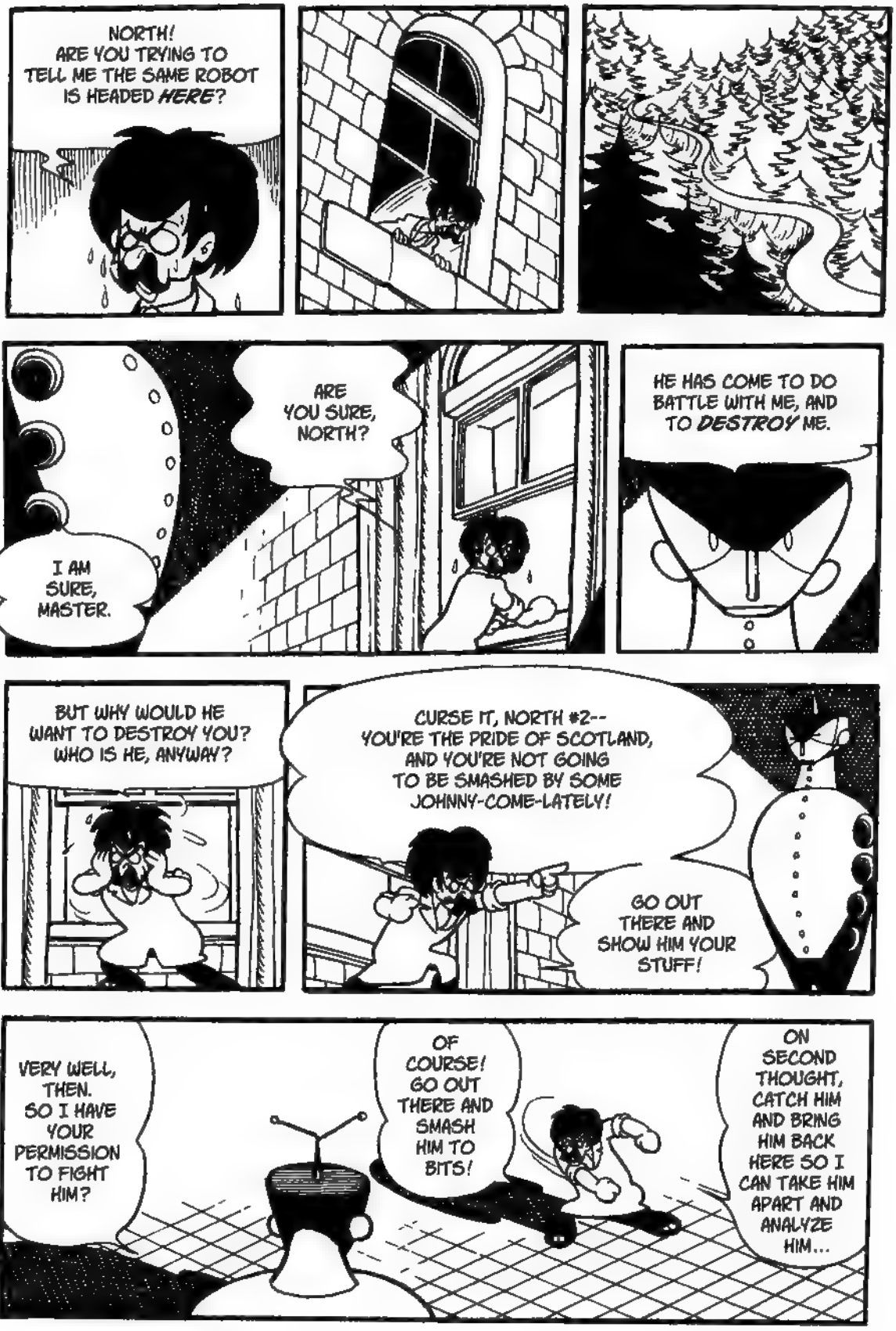
IF IT'S ASTRO YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE ME ON FIRST!
OUT OF THE WAY, OLD MAN. I CANNOT FIGHT HUMANS.
I AM ONLY DESIGNED TO FIGHT ROBOTS!
OF COURSE YOU ARE! ONLY EVIL ROBOTS ATTACK HUMANS!
WHY YOU-!!
STOP, I SAID! STOP!!!
OKAY, TELL ME WHO MADE YOU AND WHY YOU'RE HERE...
MY NAME IS PLUTO. I WAS ORDERED TO DO BATTLE WITH ROBOTS AROUND THE WORLD, AND TO WIN.
WELL I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO FIGHT WITH ASTRO! SO GET OUT OF HERE, AND DON'T COME BACK!
VERY WELL, THEN. YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE FOR NOW...
BUT AS FOR YOU, ASTRO BOY, WE SHALL MEET AGAIN...

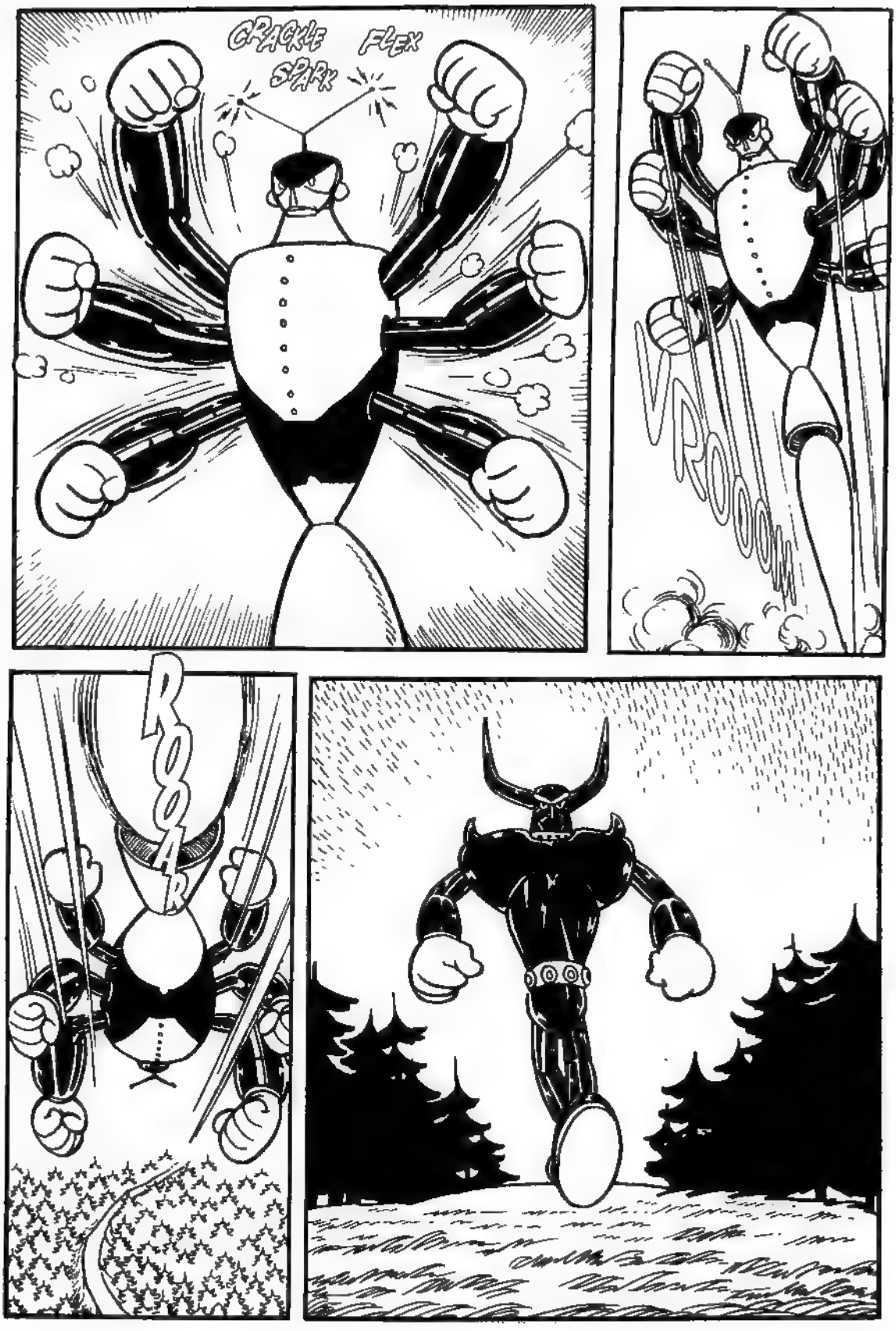
VOOOSH VOOOSH
ROOAR
WHOOSH
FLASH
KABOOM
ASTRO! DON'T GO! YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO COMPETE WITH HIM!
WHY THAT...

PROFESSOR! MY 100,000 HORSEPOWER ISN'T ENOUGH! YOU'VE GOT TO INCREASE IT TO A MILLION!
YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE ME A MILLION HORSEPOWER ROBOT!
MAKE YOU A WHAT?!
LISTEN CAREFULLY, ASTRO... YOU WERE MADE TO BE A ROBOT WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER, NOT A MILLION...
BUT IF I HAD A MILLION HORSEPOWER, I COULD BEAT ROBOTS LIKE PLUTO...
RRRRR
FSSSSS!
LISTEN, ASTRO... JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE ONLY GOT 100,000 HORSEPOWER DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S ANYTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF...
IF IT WAS ONLY ABOUT STRENGTH, ASTRO, PROFESSIONAL WRESTLERS WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, BUT THEY AREN'T...
EVEN A ROBOT WITH ONLY 100,000 HORSEPOWER CAN BE THE GREATEST ROBOT IN THE WORLD.

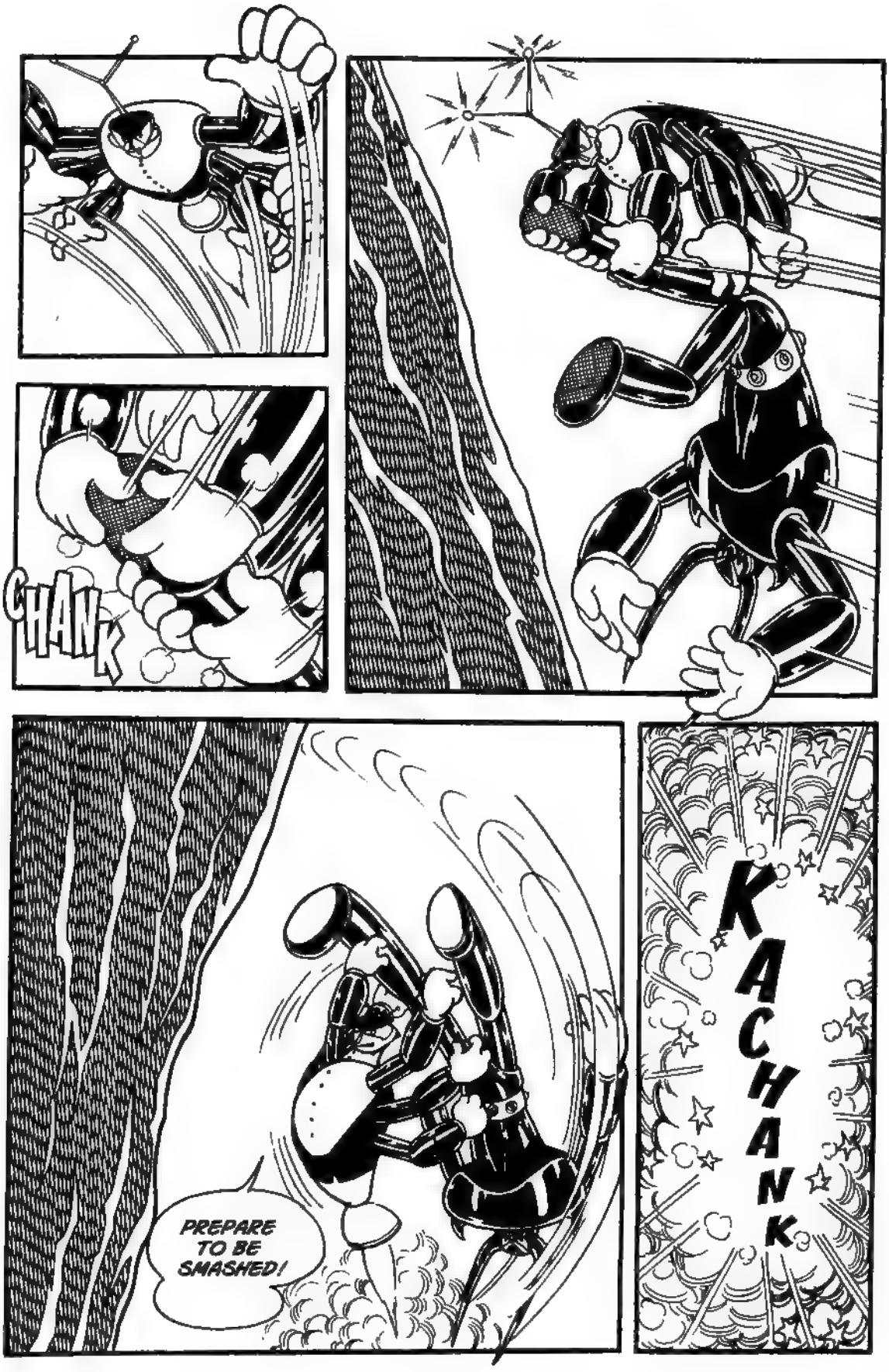

I GUESS I UNDER-STAND, SORT OF...
HEY, ASTRO!!
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T BEAT THAT BAD ROBOT? WHAT'S WRONG?
I KNOW... I BET YOU RAN AWAY 'CUZ YOU'RE SCARED OF HIM...
YOU'RE A SCAREDY-CAT, ASTRO! I HATE YOU!
MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY IN NORTHERN SCOTLAND...

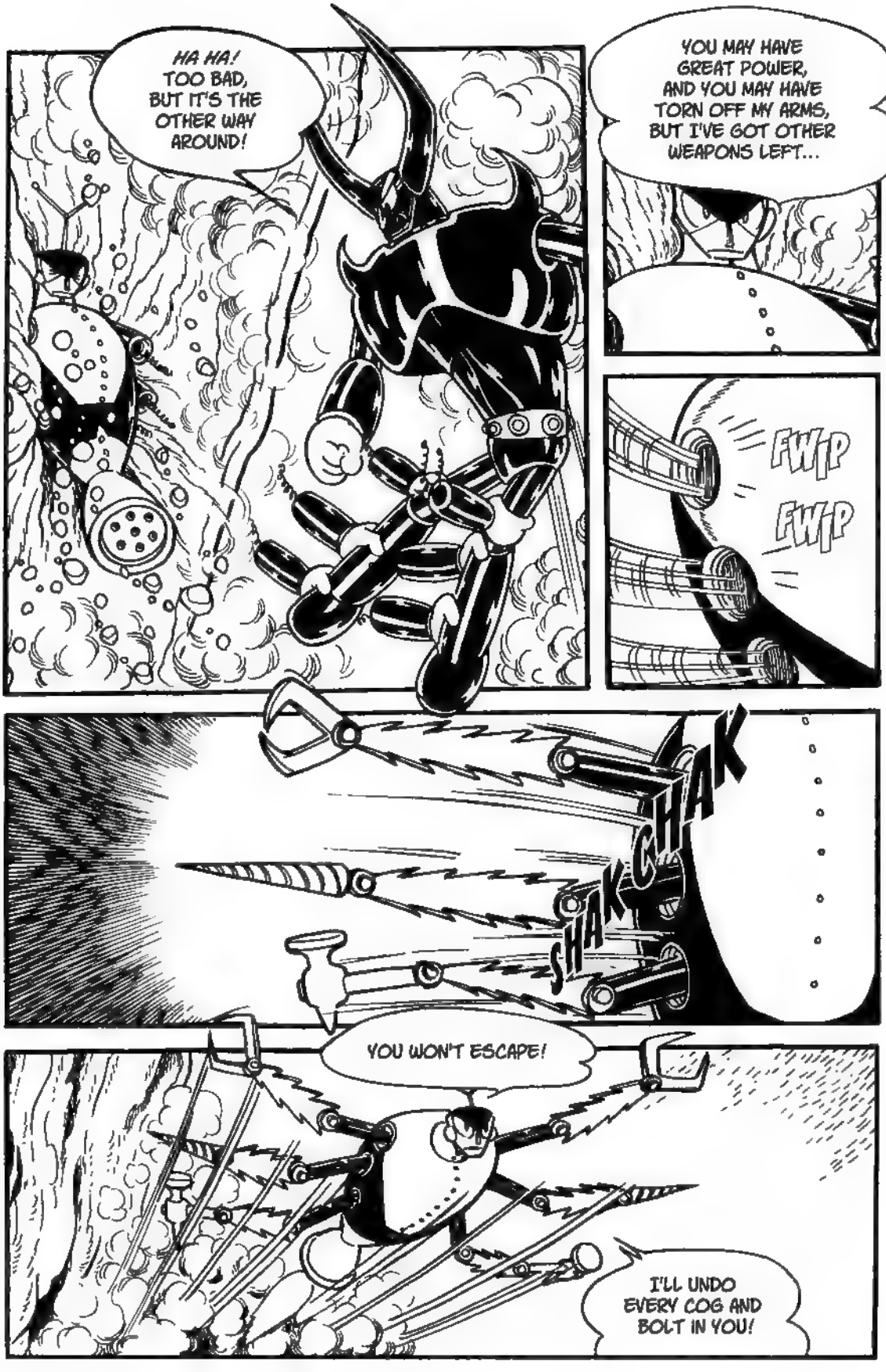

ZZIPP
MASTER... I'VE DETECTED A GIANT ROBOT...
RADAR SHOWS HIM TO BE TWENTY MILES SOUTH OF HERE, HEADED THIS WAY...
PROBABLY ONE OF YOUR PALS, NO?
NO. HE APPEARS TO BE MY ENEMY.
ENEMY?!
YES, MASTER, MY ENEMY...
ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE SWISS SUPER-ROBOT, MONT BLANC, WAS DESTROYED BY SOMEONE A MONTH AGO?
YEAH, BUT WHAT OF IT?
THAT SOMEONE WAS AN UNIDENTIFIED ROBOT...
WHAT?!

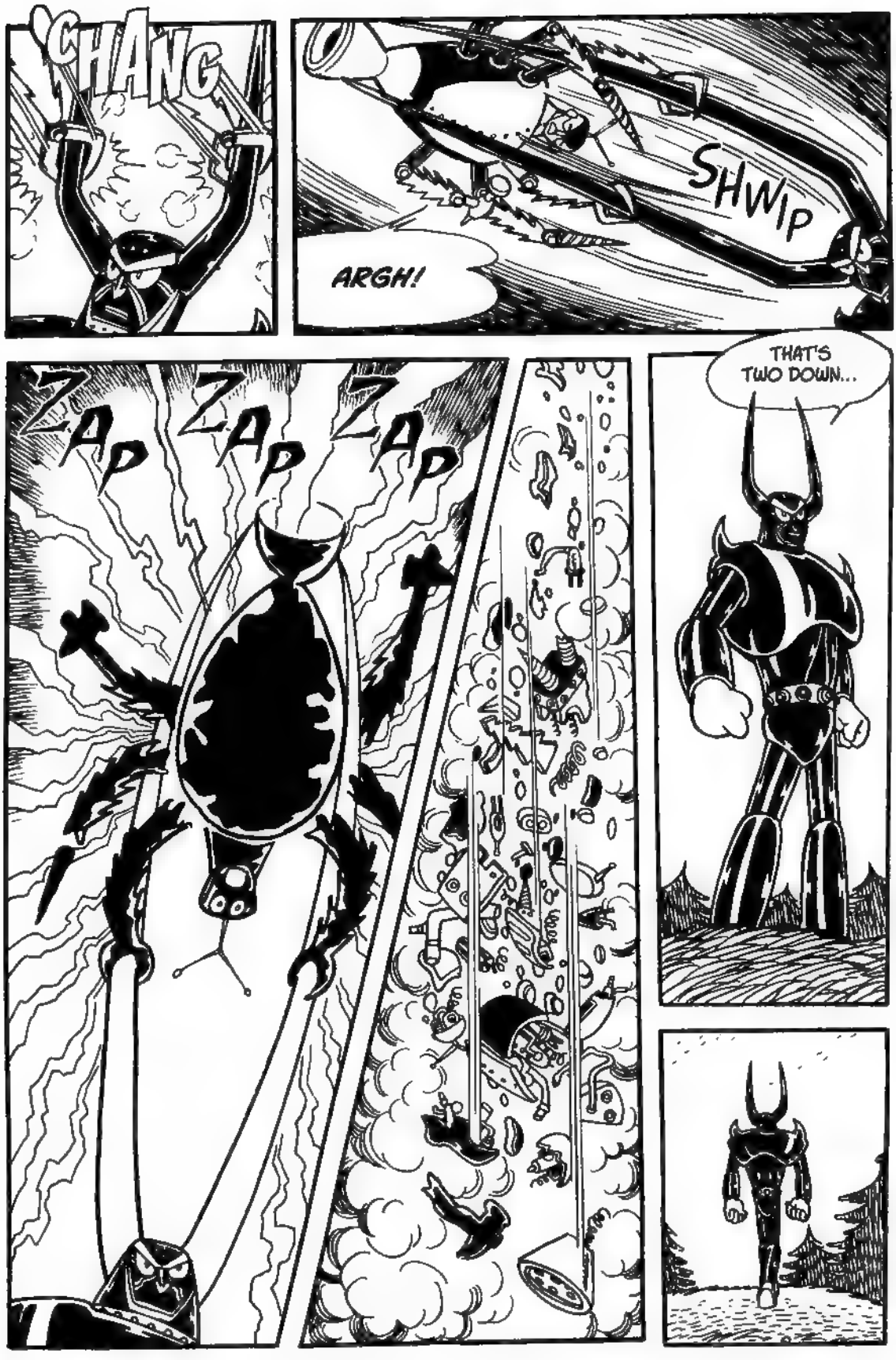

NORTH! ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THE SAME ROBOT IS HEADED *HERE*?
ARE YOU SURE, NORTH?
I AM SURE, MASTER.
HE HAS COME TO DO BATTLE WITH ME, AND TO *DESTROY* ME.
BUT WHY WOULD HE WANT TO DESTROY YOU? WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?
CURSE IT, NORTH #2-- YOU'RE THE PRIDE OF SCOTLAND, AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE SMASHED BY SOME JOHNNY-COME-LATELY!
GO OUT THERE AND SHOW HIM YOUR STUFF!
VERY WELL, THEN. SO I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO FIGHT HIM?
OF COURSE! GO OUT THERE AND SMASH HIM TO BITS!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, CATCH HIM AND BRING HIM BACK HERE SO I CAN TAKE HIM APART AND ANALYZE HIM...


CRACKLE
FLEX
SPARK
VROOOM
ROAR

VOOSH
NORTH #2... I ASSUME YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE...
I KNOW. YOU INTEND TO DESTROY ME.
I HAVE NO HATRED OF YOU, NORTH, BUT MY MASTER HAS ORDERED ME TO DESTROY YOU, AND I MUST OBEY HIM.
AND MY MASTER HAS ORDERED ME TO CATCH YOU AND BRING YOU BACK TO HIM...
VOOSH
I SHALL CAPTURE YOU WITH MY SIX ARMS AND HANDS.


CHANK
PREPARE TO BE SMASHED!
KACHANK


HA HA! TOO BAD, BUT IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
YOU MAY HAVE GREAT POWER, AND YOU MAY HAVE TORN OFF MY ARMS, BUT I'VE GOT OTHER WEAPONS LEFT...
FWIP
FWIP
SHAK-CHAK
YOU WON'T ESCAPE!
I'LL UNDO EVERY COG AND BOLT IN YOU!


'CHANG
SHWIP
ARGH!
ZAP ZAP ZAP
THAT'S TWO DOWN...

NORTH #2!!
MY BELOVED NORTH #2!!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?! WHO COULD POSSIBLY HATE ME SO MUCH? WHAT AWFUL ROBOT DID THIS?!!
OH MY GOD!!
WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF TWO OF 'EM...
PLUTO ONLY HAS TO DESTROY FIVE MORE... AND THEN HE'LL BE KING OF THE WORLD...
LESSEE... AT THE RATE OF ONE A DAY, IT'LL TAKE FIVE DAYS...
HEY, PLUTO... CAN YOU HEAR ME? WHAT ABOUT ASTRO BOY? HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF HIM YET?
IF NOT, GO TO JAPAN NEXT, PLUTO!

I'LL LURE HIM OUT FOR YOU TO BATTLE, PLUTO!
VOOOSH
GO TO JAPAN... GO BACK TO JAPAN...
I'M SO DISAPPOINTED IN ASTRO... HE'S TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A WEAKLING...
ALL THAT TALK ABOUT 100,000 HORSEPOWER AND SEVEN SPECIAL POWERS... IT ALL TURNS OUT TO BE USELESS...
GOSH, I WONDER WHO'D CALL THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
RING RING
RING RING RING
HELLO?
IS THIS ASTRO BOY'S HOUSE?
YES...
ARE YOU ASTRO BOY?
ER... UM... YES, I AM...

LISTEN, PLUTO WAS SUPPOSED TO FIGHT YOU THE OTHER DAY, BUT HE WAS INTERRUPTED...
THIS TIME I'M TELLING YOU IN PRIVATE... YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE YOUR HOUSE AND FIGHT PLUTO OUTSIDE...
WHO'S PLUTO...?
THE ROBOT YOU MET BEFORE...
WELL? ARE WE ON? OR ARE YOU A SCAREDY-CAT?
OF COURSE WE'RE ON!
I'M NO SCAREDY-CAT!
HA HA. THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE ASTRO BOY I'VE HEARD ABOUT! I'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO MEET PLUTO....
CHAK
ASTRO AND I BOTH HAVE 100,000 HORSEPOWER...
...SO I'M JUST AS STRONG AS HE IS!
I'LL JUST GO MEET PLUTO IN ASTRO'S STEAD!
I CAN WEAR HIS SHORT PANTS...
WOW! I LOOK COOL!

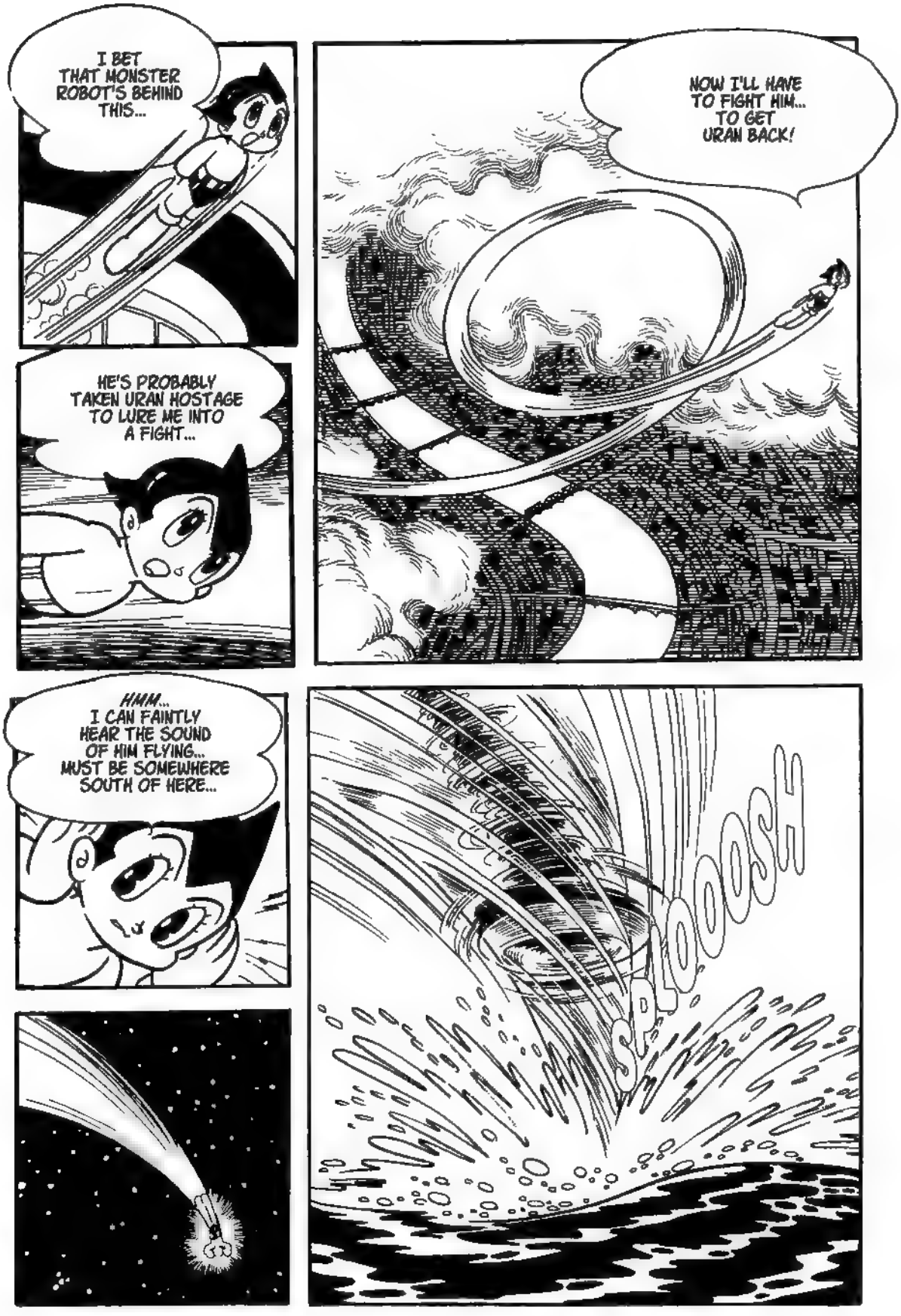
COURSE, I KNOW ASTRO'D GET HERE WITH HIS ROCKETS..
CLACK CLAK
I WONDER WHY PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU DIDN'T MAKE ME WITH THE SAME SEVEN POWERS MY BROTHER HAS?
I'M SURE THIS IS WHERE THAT MAN TOLD ME TO COME, BUT THERE'S NOBODY HERE...
GOSH, IT'S AWFUL QUIET... I WONDER IF I'VE BEEN TRICKED?
I FEEL LIKE GOING HOME NOW....

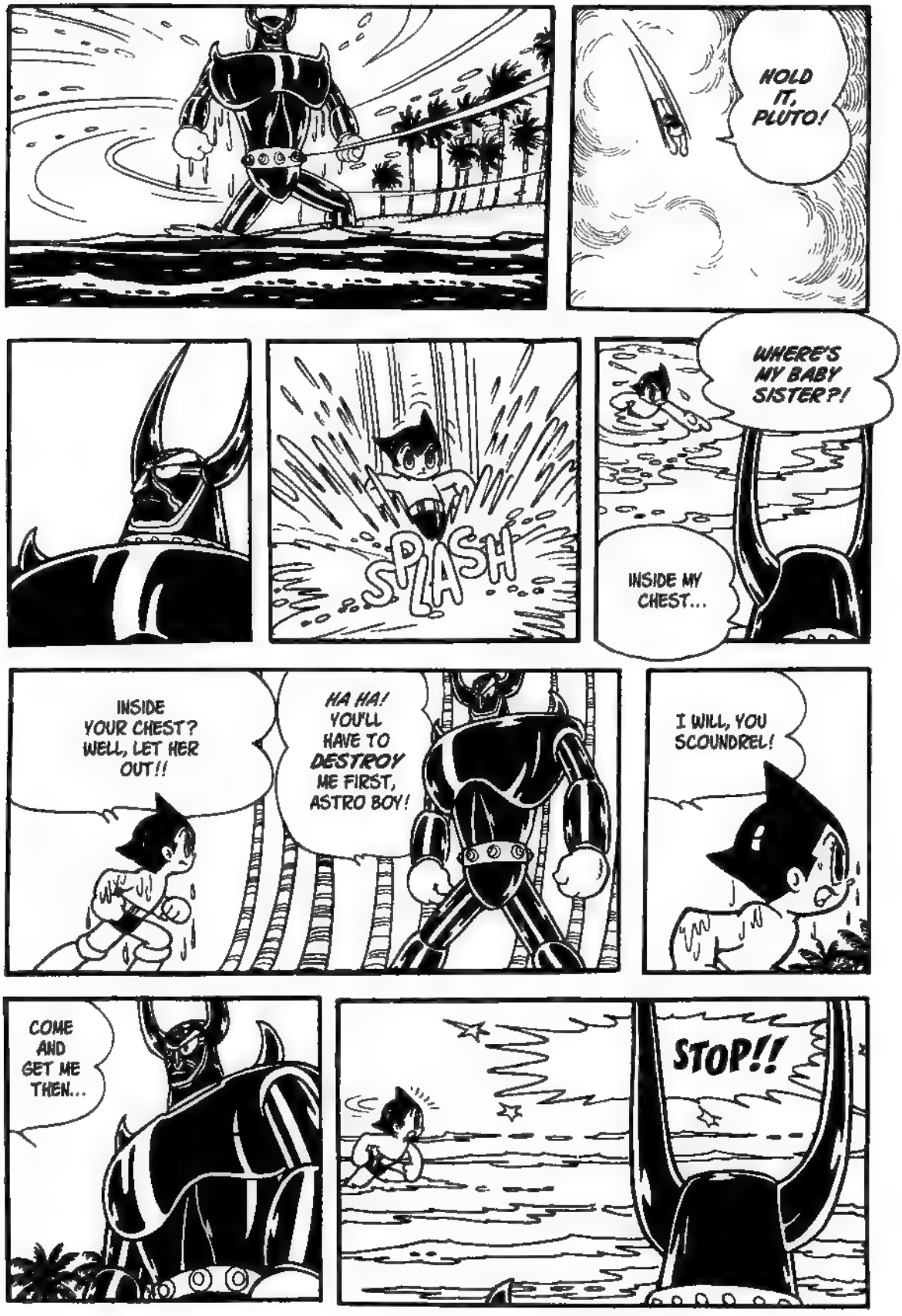
EEEK!
YOU ARE NOT ASTRO BOY...
I AM TOO ASTRO BOY! I'M THE ONLY ASTRO BOY!
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT 100,000 HORSEPOWER MEANS!!

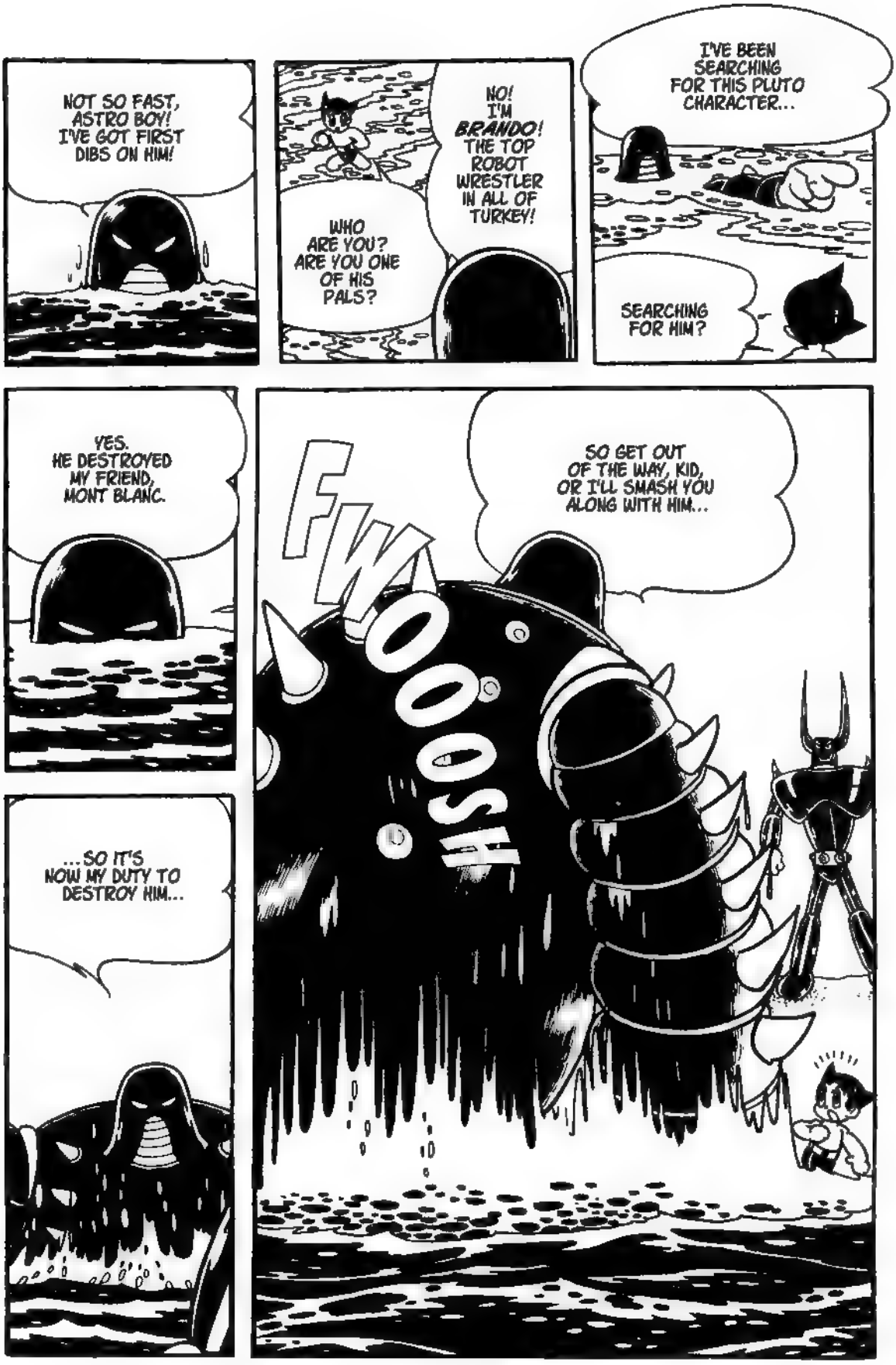
I ONLY FIGHT THE SEVEN ROBOTS I WAS ORDERED TO FIGHT!
SLAP
TAKE THIS!!
STOP! STOP, I SAID!
WHERE'S THE REAL ASTRO BOY?! I WANT ASTRO BOY!!
THE REAL ASTRO BOY'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE SEVEN SPECIAL POWERS!
WHO ARE YOU? WHY DID YOU COME HERE PRETENDING TO BE ASTRO BOY?
CONFESS! OR I'LL CRUSH YOU!
CREAK

TELL ME WHY ASTRO DIDN'T COME AND I MIGHT LET YOU GO... WELL?
I'M... I'M ASTRO'S LITTLE SISTER...
HIS SISTER?!
SO ASTRO HAS A SISTER, EH?
HEY, IT'S NOT POLITE TO STARE AT A LADY LIKE THIS!
HMPH. TELL ME WHY YOU CAME HERE INSTEAD OF HIM...
WHAT?! YOU SAY ASTRO'S BEEN FORBIDDEN FROM FIGHTING ME?
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP YOU AS A HOSTAGE!
NO!! LEMME GO!!
HOW DARE YOU?! I'LL LET EVERYBODY KNOW I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED!

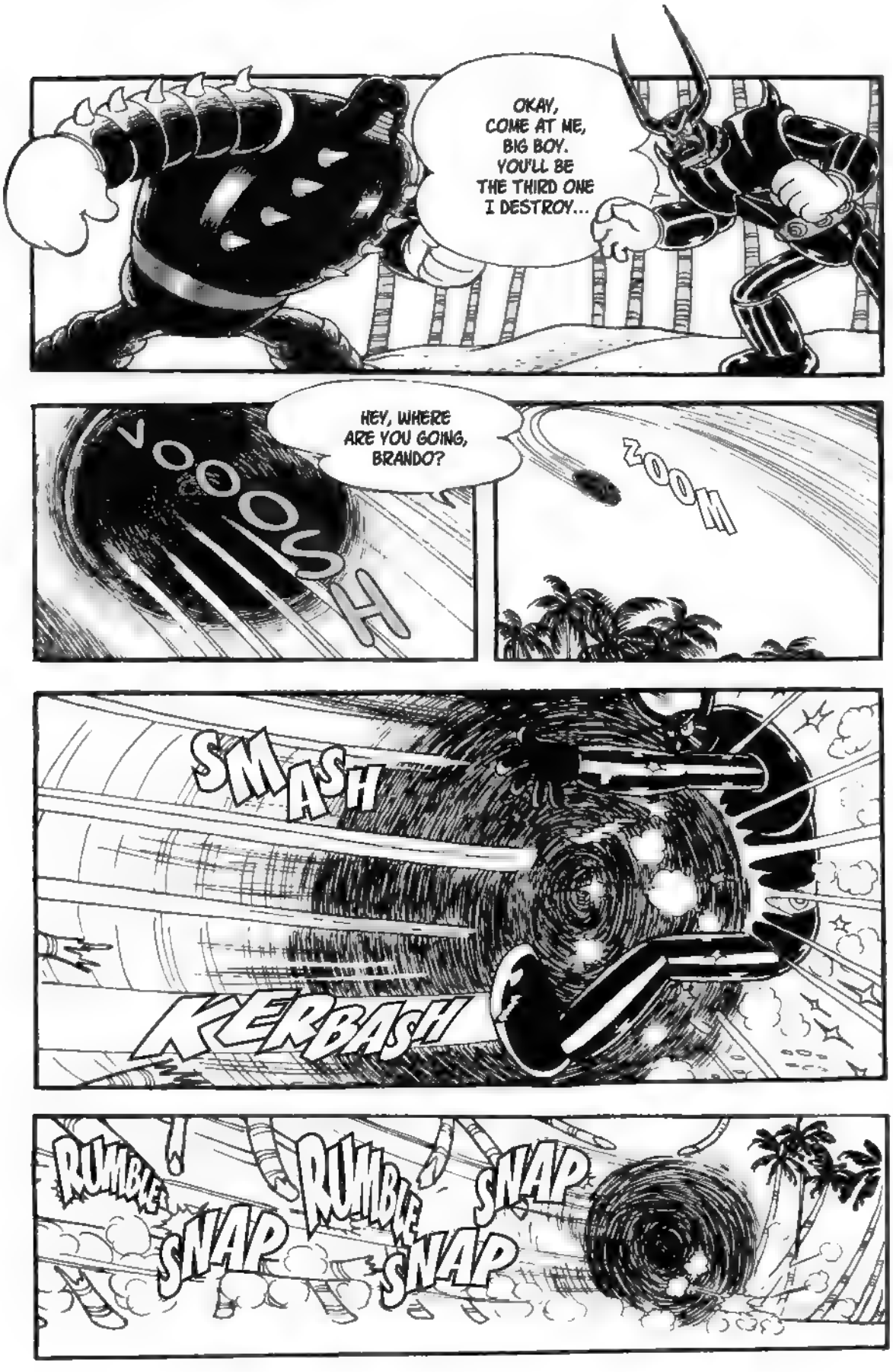
I'LL SCREAM! KIDNAPPER! HELP! SOMEBODY COME! POLICE! TEACHER! DADDY!!
SHUT UP!!
ZAP ZAAP
CHAK
VOOOSH
UM... INSPECTOR NAKAMURA? OUR DEAR DAUGHTER, URAN, HAS VANISHED...
SHE DISAPPEARED FROM HER BEDROOM IN THE LAST HOUR...
WHAT?! YOU SAY YOU SAW URAN?
YETH. I WAS THLEEPING IN THE PARK, AND THITH GIANT DEVIL-LIKE GUY GRABBED YOUR DAUGHTER...


I BET THAT MONSTER ROBOT'S BEHIND THIS...
HE'S PROBABLY TAKEN URAN HOSTAGE TO LURE ME INTO A FIGHT...
NOW I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT HIM... TO GET URAN BACK!
HMM... I CAN FAINTLY HEAR THE SOUND OF HIM FLYING... MUST BE SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF HERE...
SPLOOOSH

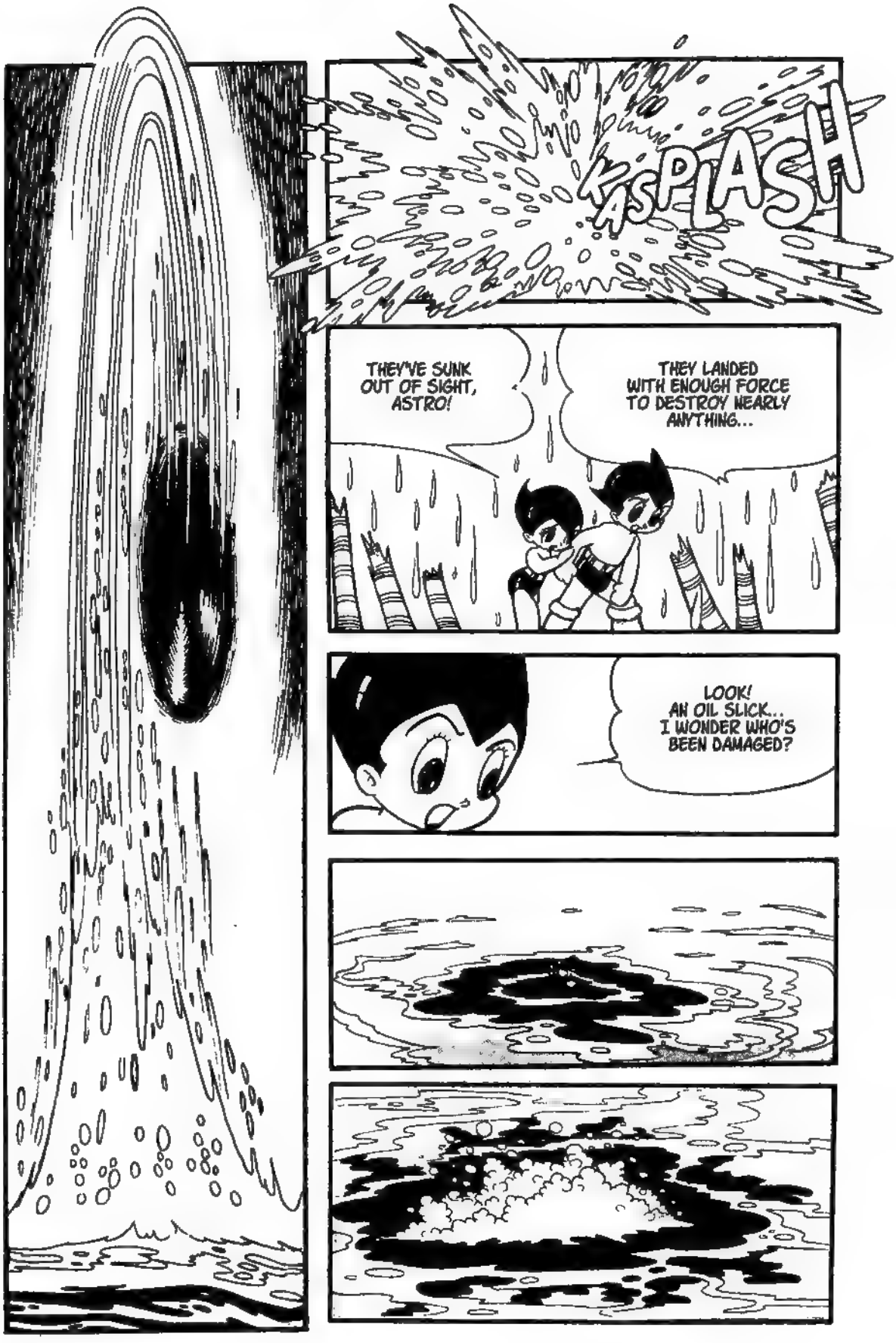

HOLD IT, PLUTO!
SPLASH
WHERE'S MY BABY SISTER?!
INSIDE MY CHEST...
INSIDE YOUR CHEST? WELL, LET HER OUT!!
HA HA! YOU'LL HAVE TO DESTROY ME FIRST, ASTRO BOY!
I WILL, YOU SCOUNDREL!
COME AND GET ME THEN...
STOP!!

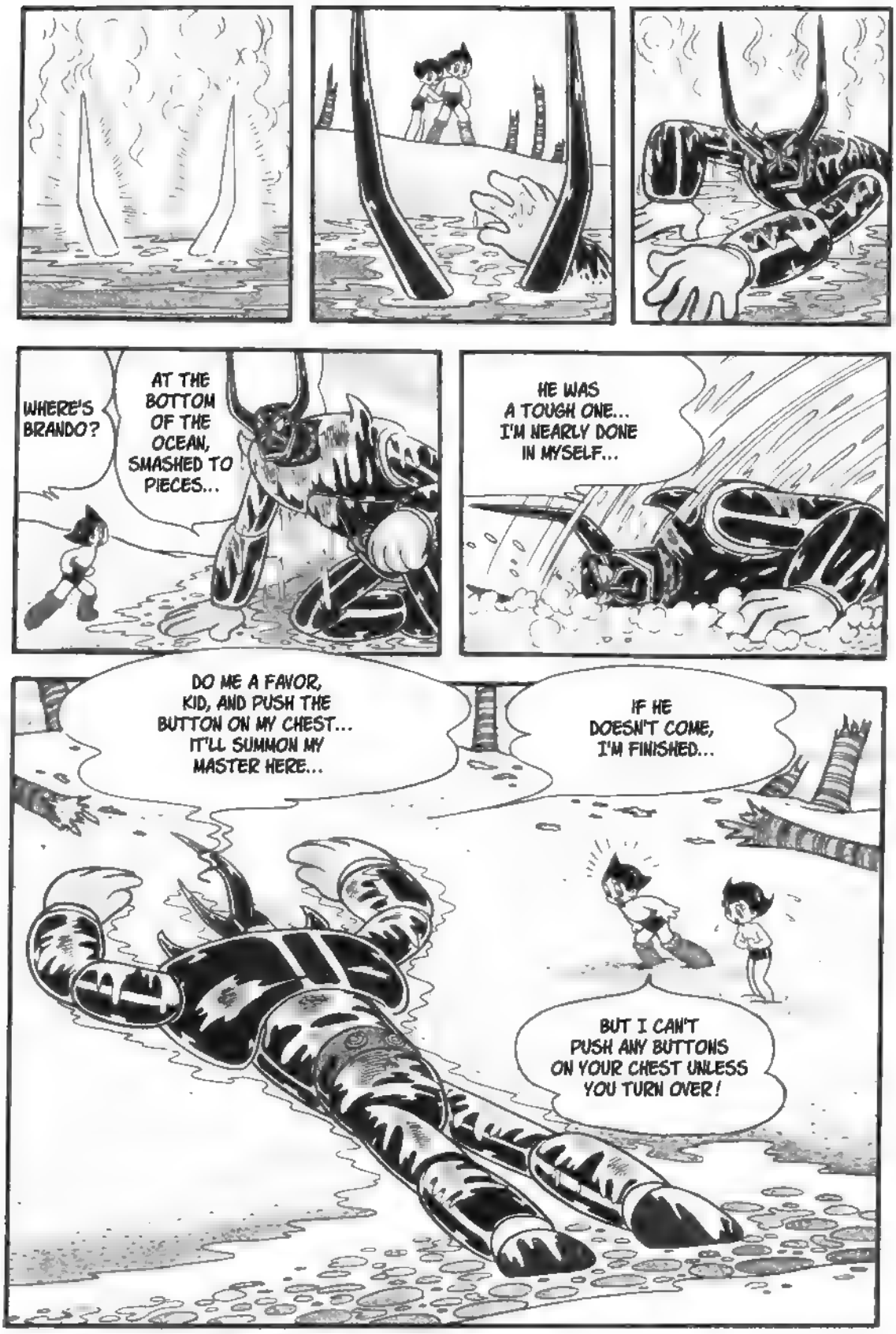

NOT SO FAST, ASTRO BOY! I'VE GOT FIRST DIBS ON HIM!
NO! I'M BRANDO! THE TOP ROBOT WRESTLER IN ALL OF TURKEY!
WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU ONE OF HIS PALS?
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THIS PLUTO CHARACTER...
SEARCHING FOR HIM?
YES. HE DESTROYED MY FRIEND, MONT BLANC.
SO GET OUT OF THE WAY, KID, OR I'LL SMASH YOU ALONG WITH HIM...
FWOOOSH
...SO IT'S NOW MY DUTY TO DESTROY HIM...

STOP! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! I WAS HERE FIRST!!
OUT OF THE WAY, OR I'LL DESTROY YOU FIRST!
BRANDO, IS IT? LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY...
I SHALL GRANT YOUR WISH, AND FIGHT YOU FIRST!
BUT BEFORE THAT...
URAN!!
I'M GIVING HER BACK TO YOU BEFORE FIGHTING THE BIG ROBOT, SO SHE WILL NOT BE HURT...
URAN!! IT'S ME, ASTRO! I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MY ENERGY!
ASTRO! WHAT YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? YOU'RE THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT, URAN...


OKAY, COME AT ME, BIG BOY. YOU'LL BE THE THIRD ONE I DESTROY...
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BRANDO?
VOOOSH
ZOOM
SMASH
KERBASH
RUMBLE
SNAP
RUMBLE
SNAP
SNAP

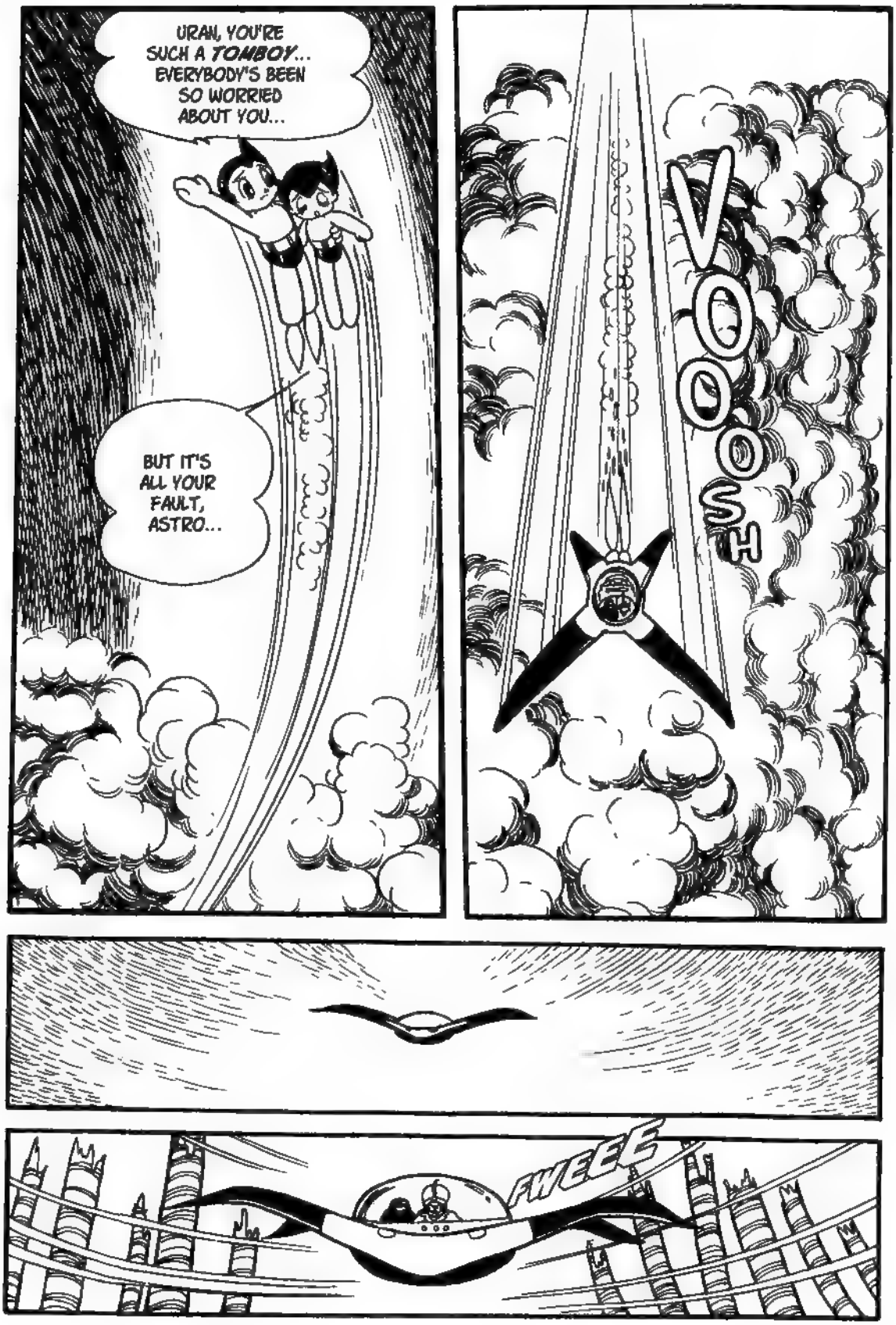
ASTRO! I'M SCARED!!
HOLD ON TO ME, URAN! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
SPLOOSH
VOOOMP
LOOKS LIKE THEY DISAPPEARED INTO THE OCEAN...
THERE'S PROBABLY A HUGE BATTLE GOING ON UNDERWATER NOW...
TEN MINUTES AND THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF THEM...
KABOOOSH
WOW!


KASPLASH
THEY'VE SUNK OUT OF SIGHT, ASTRO!
THEY LANDED WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO DESTROY NEARLY ANYTHING...
LOOK! AN OIL SLICK... I WONDER WHO'S BEEN DAMAGED?


WHERE'S BRANDO?
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN, SMASHED TO PIECES...
HE WAS A TOUGH ONE... I'M NEARLY DONE IN MYSELF...
DO ME A FAVOR, KID, AND PUSH THE BUTTON ON MY CHEST... IT'LL SUMMON MY MASTER HERE...
IF HE DOESN'T COME, I'M FINISHED...
BUT I CAN'T PUSH ANY BUTTONS ON YOUR CHEST UNLESS YOU TURN OVER!

FWIP
KATHUD
THERE. NOW HURRY UP AND PUSH THE BUTTON!
MY ARMS ARE BROKEN, AND I CAN'T DO IT MYSELF...
I WON'T FORGET THIS, ASTRO BOY...
THE DUEL WITH YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT A WHILE...
AFTER I'VE BEEN REPAIRED, I'LL COME FOR YOU IN JAPAN...
BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE TO FIGHT ME?!

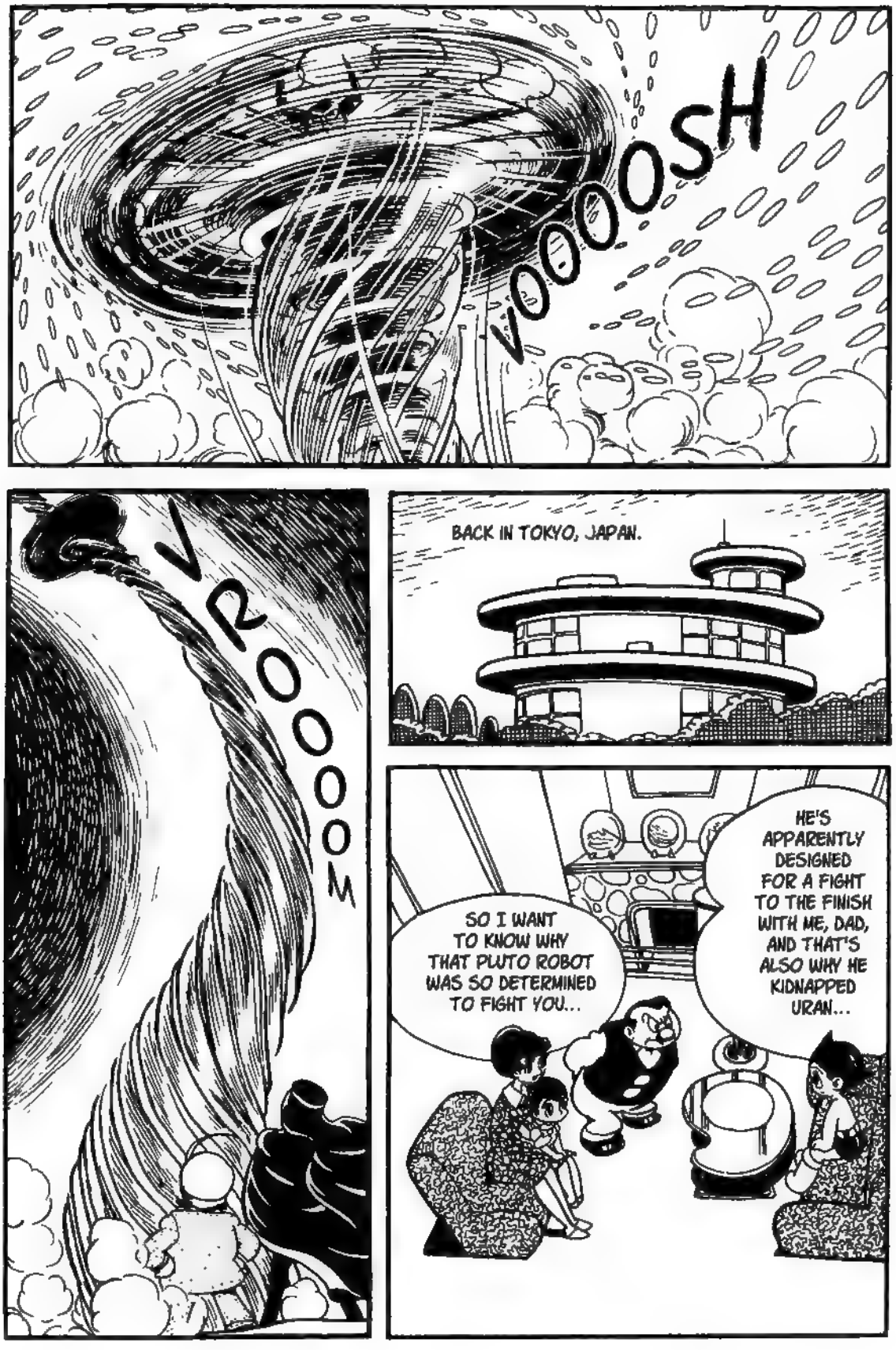
WHY? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WAS DESIGNED TO DO!
YOU CAME TO SAVE YOUR CUTE LITTLE SISTER, RIGHT? HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVE TO TAKE HER HOME...
NO, ASTRO! I DON'T WANNA GO HOME!!
URAN, WE'VE GOT TO GO HOME...
NO! I WANNA GET THAT MONSTER BOT!
YOU STUPID, ASTRO!
LISTEN, PLUTO... DON'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING COWARDLY LIKE KIDNAPPING MY SISTER AGAIN, UNDERSTAND?!
UNDERSTOOD. AND NEXT TIME WE MEET, WE'LL FIGHT ROBOT-TO-ROBOT. JUST DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY...


URAN, YOU'RE SUCH A TOMBOY... EVERYBODY'S BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
BUT IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, ASTRO...
VOOOSH
FWEEE

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, PLUTO?! HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH WHEN YOU'RE FLAT ON YOUR BACK?!!
YOU'VE BROUGHT SHAME ON ME, PLUTO!
AND AS FOR YOU, DR. ABULLAH... I GAVE YOU A TON OF MONEY TO CREATE PLUTO...
...BUT LOOK AT HIM NOW!

AH, BUT PLUTO IS NOT SOME IMMORTAL DEITY, SULTAN.
HE'S QUITE CAPABLE OF BREAKING DOWN OR RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY.
HEY! I DIDN'T HIRE YOU TO MAKE ANY OLD JUNK ROBOT!
I HIRED YOU TO MAKE THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH!
THE GREATEST ON EARTH MEANS A ROBOT THAT NEVER, EVER LOSES TO ANYBODY AND NEVER, EVER BREAKS DOWN!!
I WANT YOU TO MODIFY HIM SO THAT IF HE EVER LOSES IN A FIGHT, HE'LL EXPLODE!
GOT IT, ABULLAH? WHEN PLUTO LOSES, I WANT HIM TO BE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS ALONG WITH HIS OPPONENT!
I UNDER-STAND, SULTAN...
I SHALL MAKE THE MODIFICATIONS YOU DESIRE...
BEEP BEEP
CHAK

SHWP
FROM NOW ON, HE'LL NEVER BREAK DOWN...
AND IF, FOR ANY REASON, HE SHOULD...
...HIS SELF-DESTRUCT CIRCUITS WILL ACTIVATE, AND BLOW HIM UP...
HMPH... FOR A KING OF THE ROBOTS, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT...
OKAY, PLUTO... UP AND AT 'EM! YOU'VE GOT FOUR MORE ROBOTS TO GET RID OF!
GO FORTH, PLUTO! THE DAY IS NEARING WHEN YOU BECOME KING OF ALL THE WORLD'S ROBOTS!

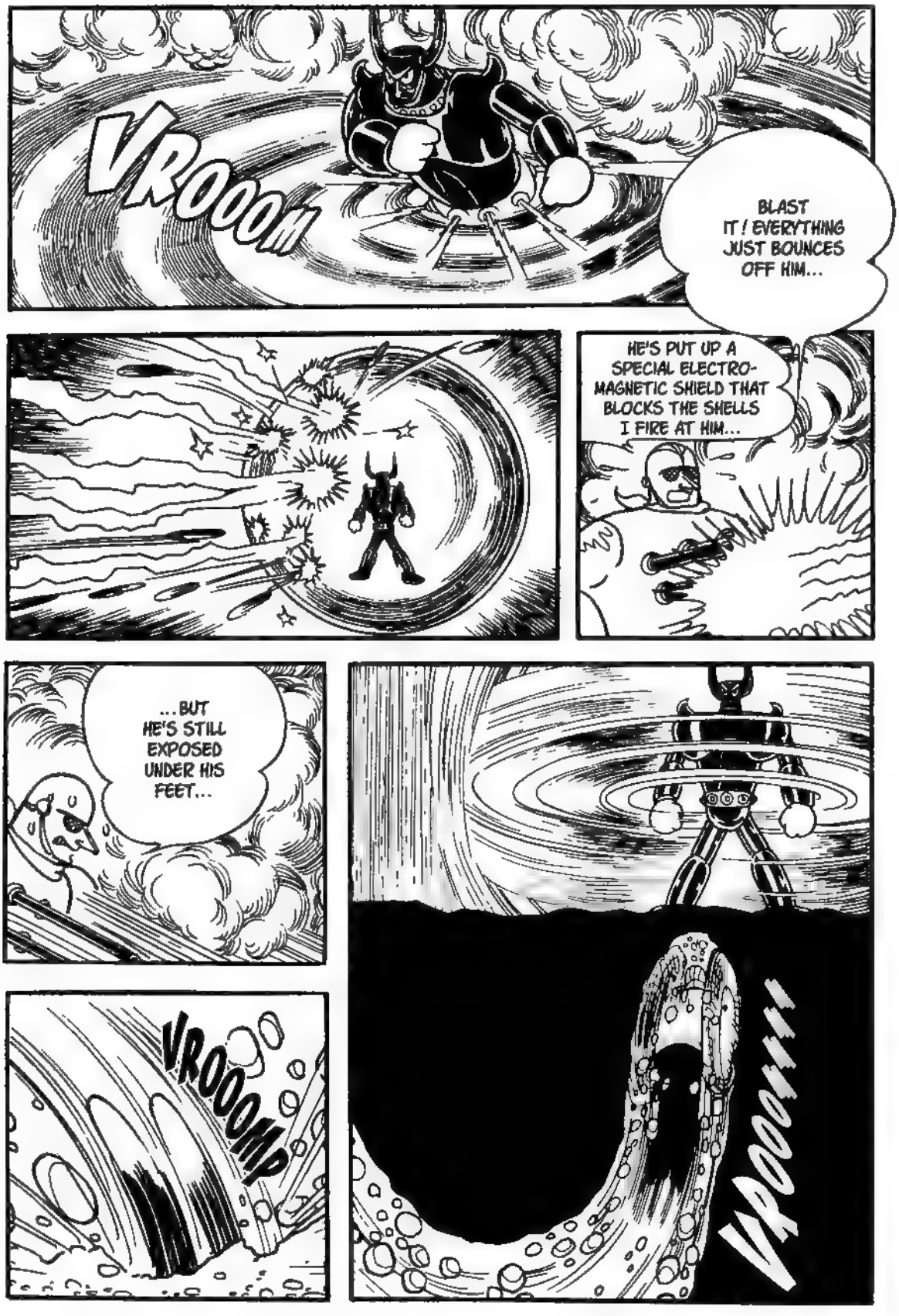

VOOOOSH
VROOOOM
BACK IN TOKYO, JAPAN.
SO I WANT TO KNOW WHY THAT PLUTO ROBOT WAS SO DETERMINED TO FIGHT YOU...
HE'S APPARENTLY DESIGNED FOR A FIGHT TO THE FINISH WITH ME, DAD, AND THAT'S ALSO WHY HE KIDNAPPED URAN...

IF I DON'T FIGHT HIM, I'LL BE REGARDED AS A COWARD...
NO, ASTRO, NO! YOU'LL DO AS PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TOLD YOU!
TRAMP TRAMP
ER... WHO ARE YOU?
IS MASTER ASTRO BOY IN?
I'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM GERMANY TO SEE HIM...
FROM GERMANY? MY GOODNESS!
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU WHO'S MADE OF GOLD, ASTRO...
I'M HONORED TO MEET YOU, MASTER ASTRO. I'M GERHARDT, A ROBOT INSPECTOR FROM GERMANY.
I'VE COME HERE TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU.
HA HA. IT'S NOT GOLD... IT'S A SPECIAL ALLOY CALLED ZERONIUM.

I'M TRYING TO ARREST THIS ROBOT...
PLUTO
I KNOW HIM! I'VE EVEN MET HIM!
THAT'S WHAT PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TOLD ME...
HE'S ALREADY DESTROYED A ROBOT NAMED NORTH #2 IN SCOTLAND...
...AND A TURKISH ROBOT NAMED BRANDO, TOO!
HE'S AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS ROBOT, AND HE MUST BE STOPPED.
MY SENSE OF HONOR AS A ROBOT DEMANDS THAT I ARREST HIM...
...SO HE CAN BE TRIED AND FOUND GUILTY...
...AS I'M SURE HE WILL BE!
ARREST HIM? YOU OUGHTA JUST SMASH HIM!
WELL, THERE'S PROBABLY SOMEONE BEHIND PLUTO...

...SO IF WE DESTROY PLUTO, WE'LL NEVER FIND THE CRIMINAL WHO'S MANIPULATING HIM...
SO THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP, MASTER ASTRO. I WANT YOU TO BE A WITNESS WHEN PLUTO'S PUT ON TRIAL.
I WANT YOU TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM.
GOSH, I'D BE GLAD TO!
ME, TOO!
THANK YOU. WITH THAT, I CAN RETURN TO GERMANY TOMORROW.
WE ALL HOPE YOU SUCCEED.
NEAR JUNG BRUMEN... IN GERMANY...
ROOAR
IT'S PLUTO, ISN'T IT?
I HAVE A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST!!

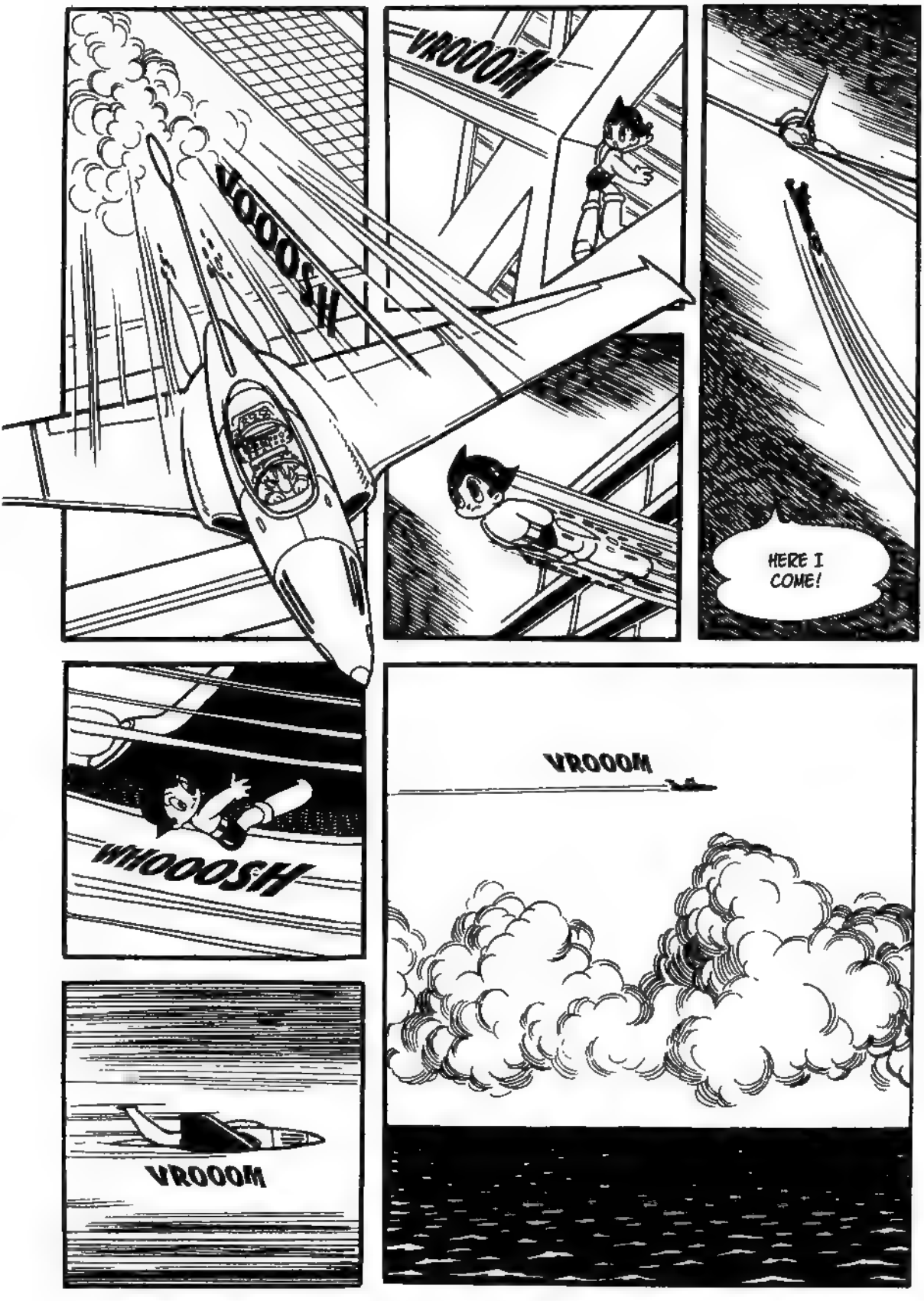
WARRANT? THAT WON'T WORK ON ME!
WELL, I'M STAKING MY REPUTATION AS A GERMAN ROBOT ON THIS, AND I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU IN!
I'M WARNING YOU, PLUTO. MY BODY'S MADE OF A SPECIAL ALLOY NAMED ZERONIUM, AND HEAT AND ELECTROMAGNETIC RAYS HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME!
SO TAKE THIS!!
BUDA BUDA
BUDA
BUDA
BUDA

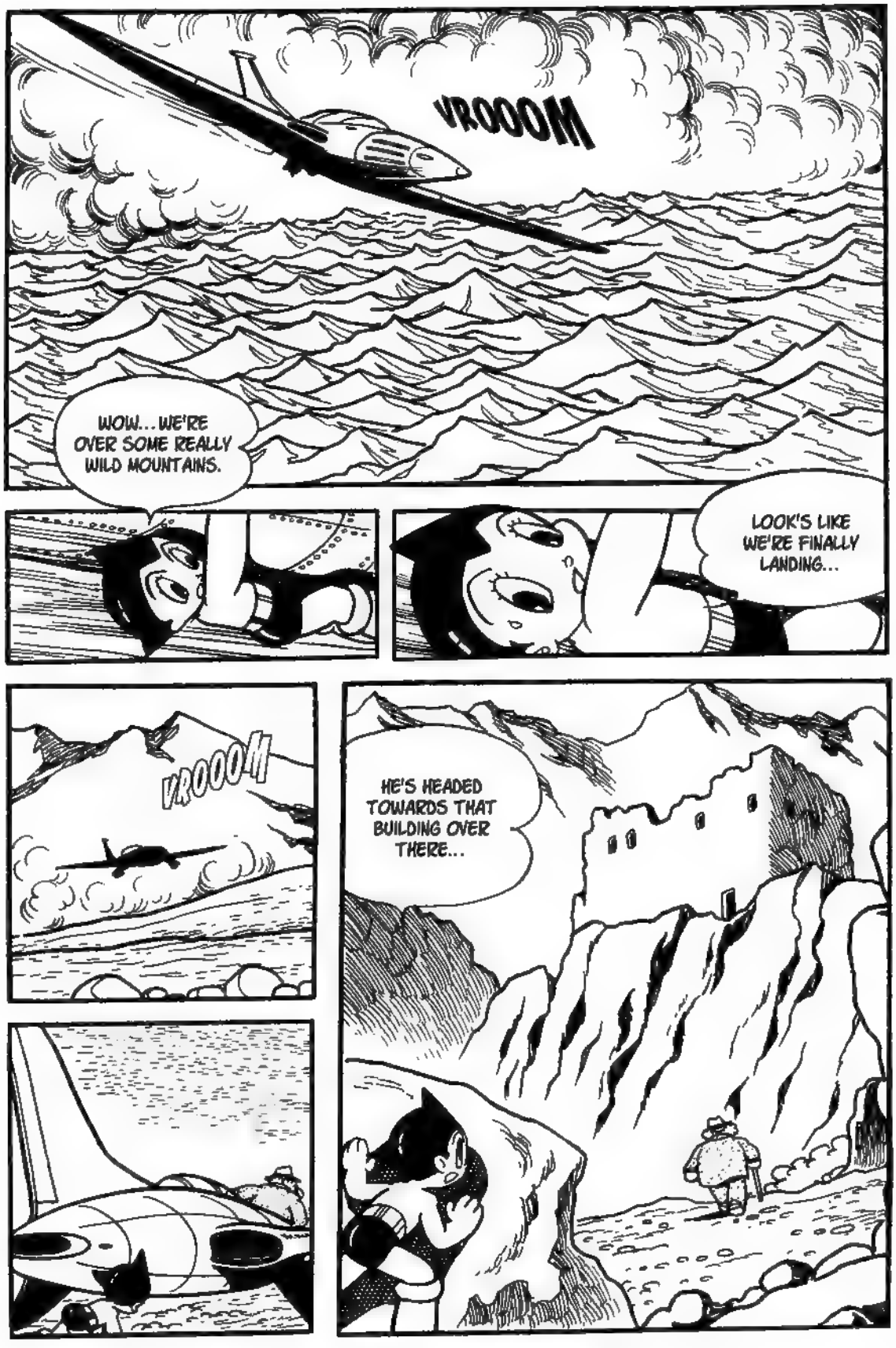

VROOOM
BLAST IT! EVERYTHING JUST BOUNCES OFF HIM...
HE'S PUT UP A SPECIAL ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SHIELD THAT BLOCKS THE SHELLS I FIRE AT HIM...
...BUT HE'S STILL EXPOSED UNDER HIS FEET...
VROOMP
VROOMMM

KAPOW
SLAM
FWIP
ZAAAP
HA HA!
I TOLD YOU, THERMO AND ELECTROMAGNETIC RAYS DON'T WORK ON ME!

SPRONG!
FOUR DOWN...
ksssss
JUST YESTERDAY, GERHARDT, GERMANY'S TOP ROBOT INSPECTOR, WAS DISCOVERED— SMASHED TO PIECES NEAR THE BRONZE ROBOT STATUE IN CENTRAL PARK...

WOW, PLUTO'S REALLY TERRIBLE...
HE MIGHT DO THE SAME THING TO ME THAT HE DID TO INSPECTOR GERHARDT...
HM... I KNOW. I'LL TELL PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU THAT HE JUST HAS TO INCREASE MY HORSEPOWER TO ONE MILLION.
GOSH, SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON WITH THE PROFESSOR!
POP
ZAP
SQWAK
ZIP
THAT'S THE SPOT!!

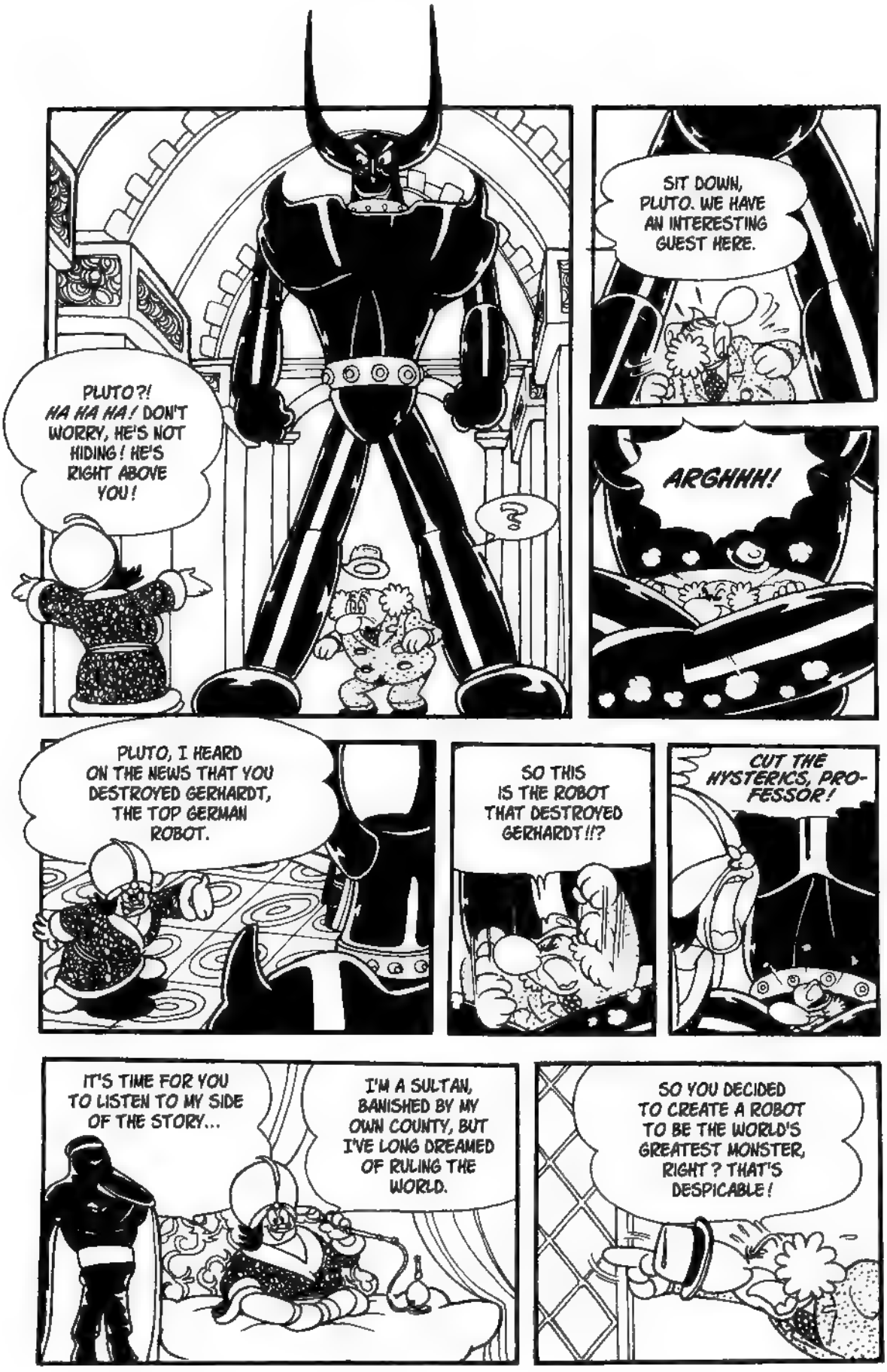

VROOOSH
VROOOH
HERE I COME!
WHOOOSH
VROOOM
VROOOM


VROOOM
WOW... WE'RE OVER SOME REALLY WILD MOUNTAINS.
LOOK'S LIKE WE'RE FINALLY LANDING...
VROOOM
HE'S HEADED TOWARDS THAT BUILDING OVER THERE...

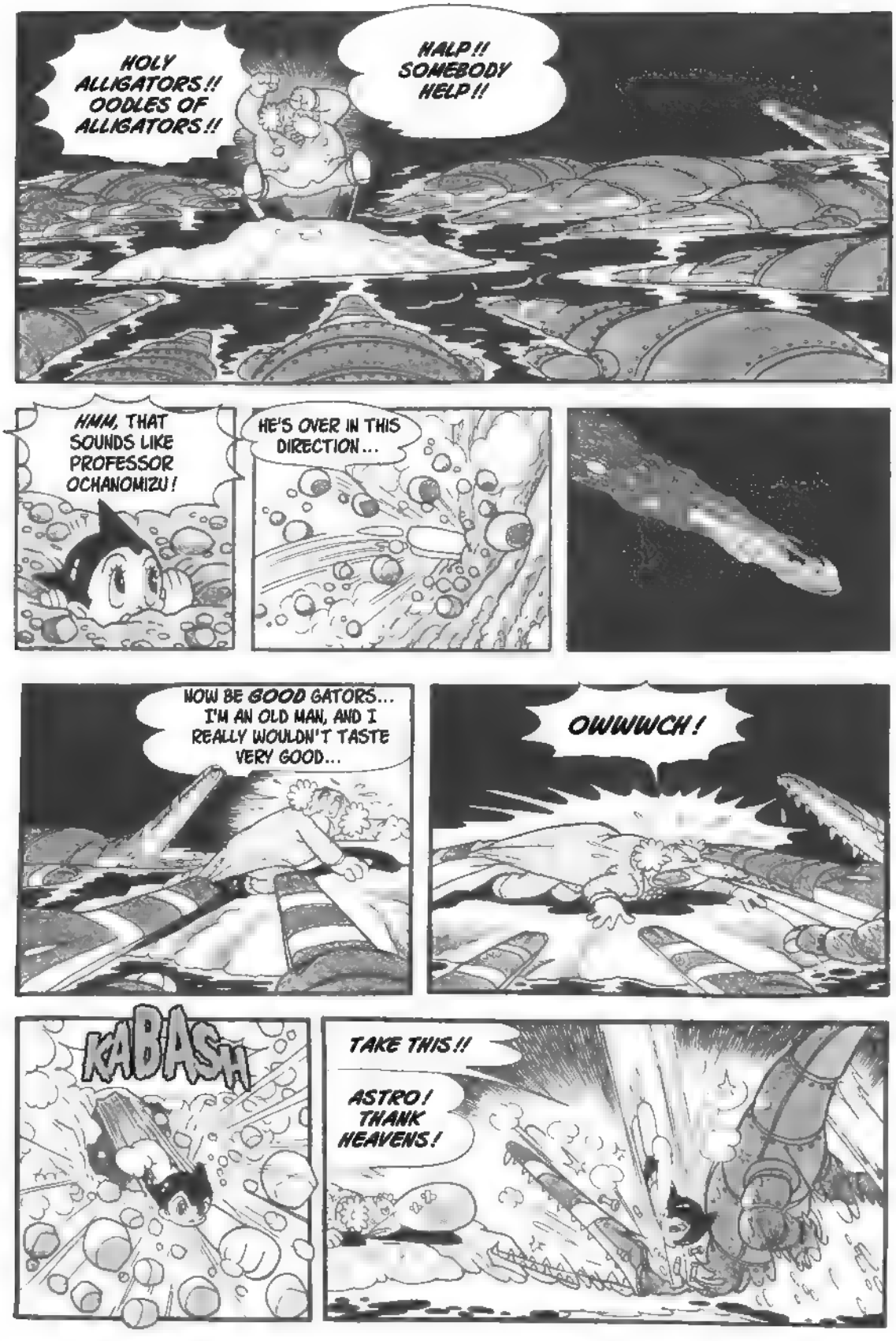
VOOOSH
UH, OH... PLUTO'S COME HERE, TOO!!
TIME TO HIDE...
KABASH

ONLY THREE LEFT!!
SO YOU SEE, DR. ABULLAH... WHEN PLUTO'S DESTROYED ALL SEVEN OF THE WORLD'S STRONGEST ROBOTS, HE'LL BE THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH!
QUITE RIGHT, SULTAN.
SO THIS IS THE SECRET LAB WHERE YOU CONTROL THAT MONSTER, EH?
WHA ?!
I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, HEAD OF JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!
AND I KNOW THAT PLUTO, THE ROBOT WHO'S BEEN MURDERING OTHER ROBOTS... IS HERE! THERE'S NO USE DENYING IT... BRING HIM OUT NOW!!

CREAK
CREAK
WOW... THAT MUST BE PLUTO'S HIDEOUT...
I'VE GOTTA GET INSIDE SOMEHOW AND SEE IF THE PROFESSOR'S OKAY...
TRAMP
TRAMP
IT'S TIME TO TELL THE TRUTH, SULTAN! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO WITH PLUTO!? AND WHO'S THAT MASKED MAN WORKING WITH YOU?!
I KNOW THERE CAN'T BE ANY NINJA IN THESE MOUNTAINS...
FWIP
PANEL TO THE LEFT'S A JOKE, FOLKS!
SO FESS UP! WHERE'S PLUTO!?

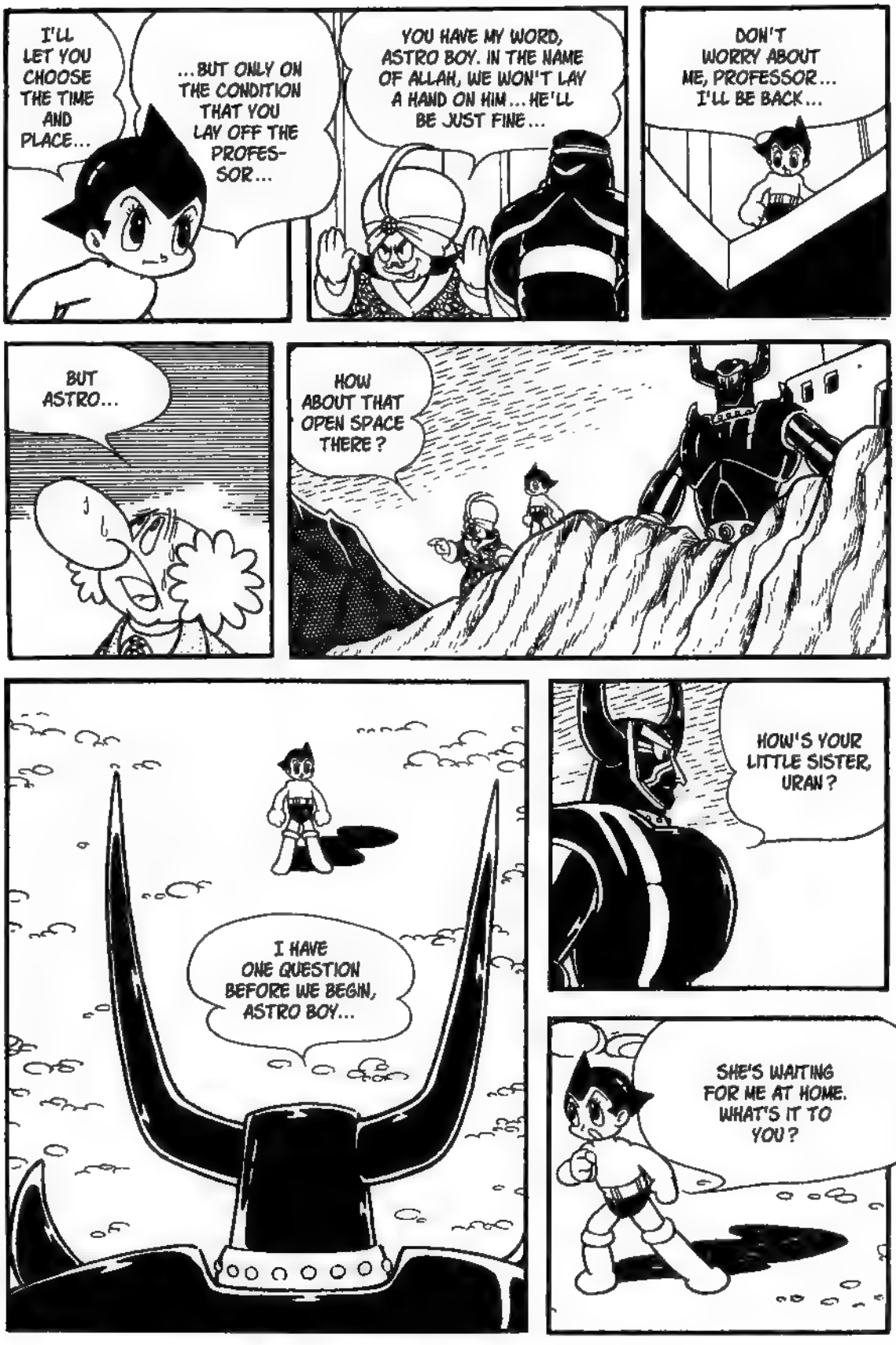

PLUTO?! HA HA HA! DON'T WORRY, HE'S NOT HIDING! HE'S RIGHT ABOVE YOU!
?
SIT DOWN, PLUTO. WE HAVE AN INTERESTING GUEST HERE.
ARGHHH!
PLUTO, I HEARD ON THE NEWS THAT YOU DESTROYED GERHARDT, THE TOP GERMAN ROBOT.
SO THIS IS THE ROBOT THAT DESTROYED GERHARDT!!?
CUT THE HYSTERICS, PROFESSOR!
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LISTEN TO MY SIDE OF THE STORY...
I'M A SULTAN, BANISHED BY MY OWN COUNTY, BUT I'VE LONG DREAMED OF RULING THE WORLD.
SO YOU DECIDED TO CREATE A ROBOT TO BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST MONSTER, RIGHT? THAT'S DESPICABLE!

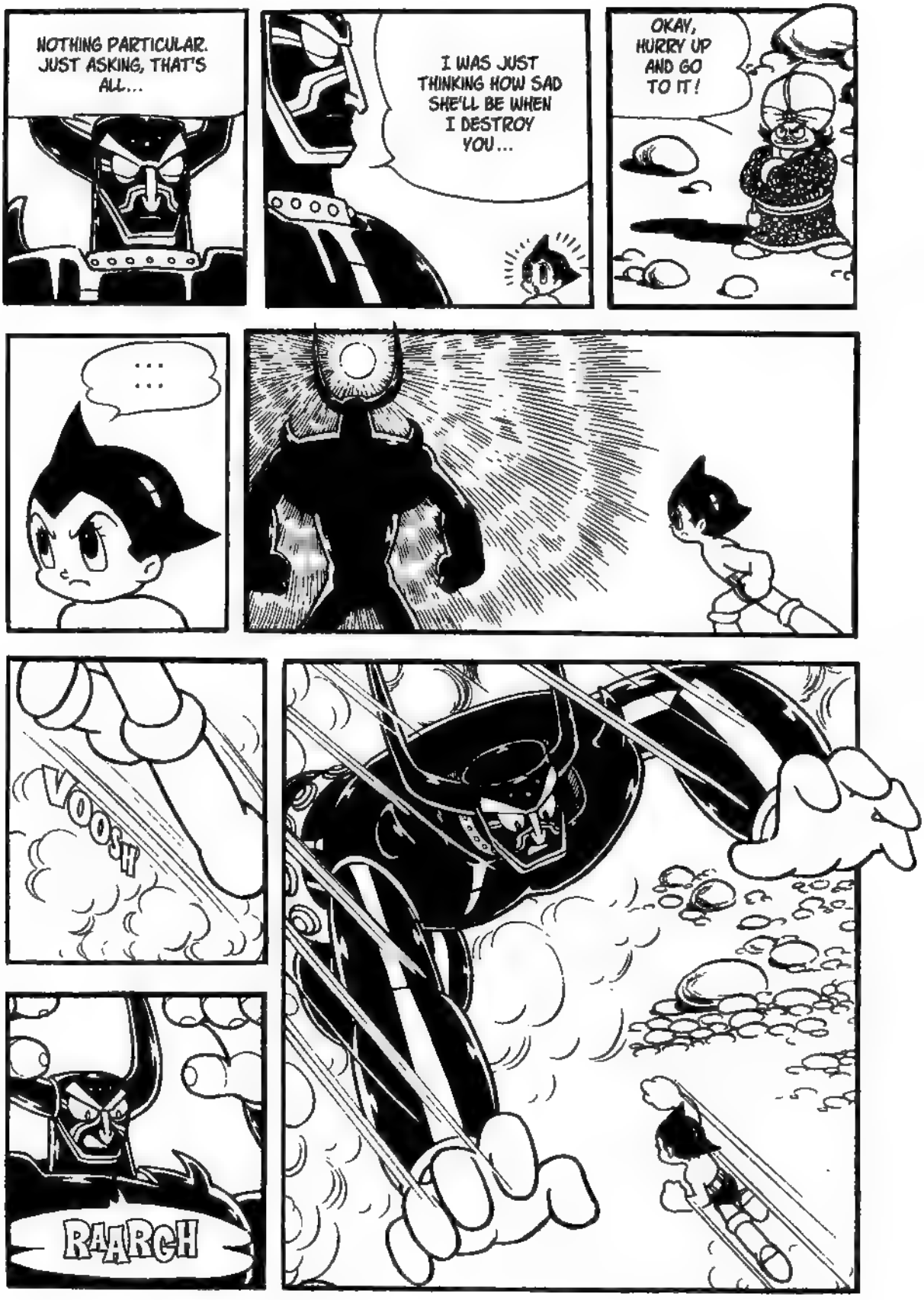
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET ME GO OR I'LL REPORT YOU TO THE WORLD FEDERATION OF SCIENTISTS!
THE OLD MAN'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE, SULTAN...
GIVEN THE WAY HE'S ACTING, I BET HE DIDN'T COME HERE ALONE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ASTRO BOY'S PROBABLY AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE NEARBY...
ASTRO BOY?!
SHH! LEAVE THIS UP TO ME!
DROP THE PROFESSOR, PLUTO!
ACK!
OH MY GOSH, NOW THEY REALLY HAVE IT IN FOR ME!!
ARGH!!


HOLY ALLIGATORS!! OODLES OF ALLIGATORS!!
HALP!! SOMEBODY HELP!!
HMM, THAT SOUNDS LIKE PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!
HE'S OVER IN THIS DIRECTION...
NOW BE GOOD GATORS... I'M AN OLD MAN, AND I REALLY WOULDN'T TASTE VERY GOOD...
OWWWCH!
KABASH
TAKE THIS!!
ASTRO! THANK HEAVENS!

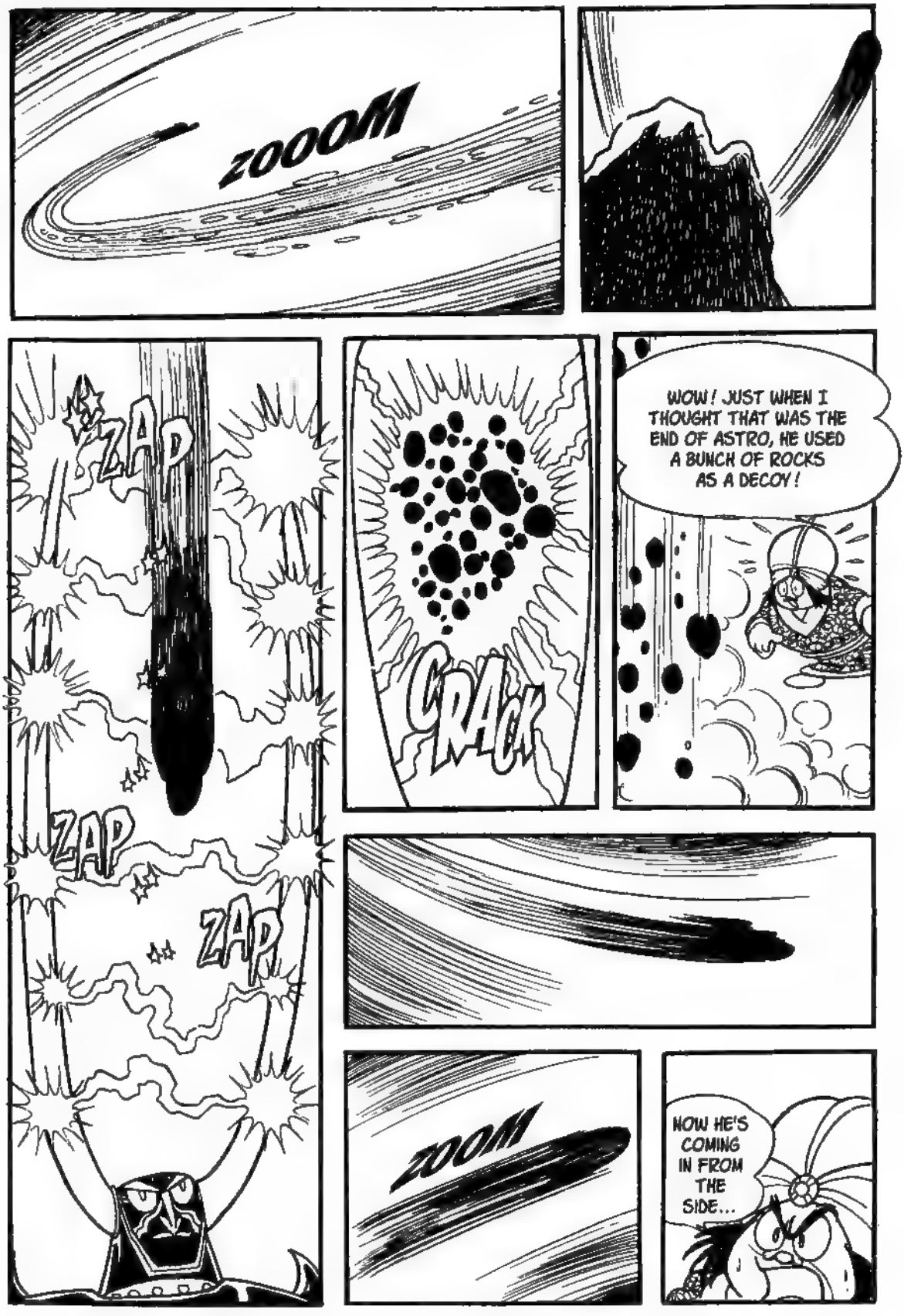
TAKE THIS, TOO!
ASTRO! YOU SAVED ME!
THESE ALLIGATORS ARE JUST ROBOTS DESIGNED TO SCARE YOU, PROFESSOR.
HOW CLEVER, ASTRO BOY. ACTUALLY, THEY WERE DESIGNED TO LURE YOU IN HERE.
PLUTO'S WAITING FOR YOU, SO COME ON UP. THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM HERE...
SO, WE MEET AGAIN, ASTRO BOY. I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED FOR COMBAT.
SO YOU COWARDS DID ALL THIS JUST TO GET ASTRO HERE?!
PROFESSOR, YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME FIGHT HIM NOW... THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...
NO, ASTRO. YOU MUSTN'T... YOU MUSTN'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY ON SUCH A SENSELESS MATCH.
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S FOR...

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH TALK OUT OF YOU, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!
TAKE THIS!
BLAM
YOWCH!
HOW DARE YOU?! THE MOST PRECIOUS THING I OWN! MY BELOVED NOSE!!
HOW DARE YOU HURT THE PROFESSOR, SULTAN!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, ASTRO BOY!
SKRRRCH
NO FIGHTING INDOORS. THAT'S THE RULE, 'CUZ IT'LL DESTROY THE BUILDING...
ANY BATTLES HAVE TO BE OUTSIDE. BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL COME ALONG AS A WITNESS. HA HA HA!


I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE THE TIME AND PLACE...
...BUT ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU LAY OFF THE PROFES-SOR...
YOU HAVE MY WORD, ASTRO BOY. IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, WE WON'T LAY A HAND ON HIM... HE'LL BE JUST FINE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, PROFESSOR... I'LL BE BACK...
BUT ASTRO...
HOW ABOUT THAT OPEN SPACE THERE?
I HAVE ONE QUESTION BEFORE WE BEGIN, ASTRO BOY...
HOW'S YOUR LITTLE SISTER, URAN?
SHE'S WAITING FOR ME AT HOME. WHAT'S IT TO YOU?


NOTHING PARTICULAR. JUST ASKING, THAT'S ALL...
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW SAD SHE'LL BE WHEN I DESTROY YOU...
OKAY, HURRY UP AND GO TO IT!
...
VOOSH
RAARGH

BOOM
WHISH
KA
BASH


ZOOOM
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
CRACK
WOW! JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END OF ASTRO, HE USED A BUNCH OF ROCKS AS A DECOY!
ZOOM
NOW HE'S COMING IN FROM THE SIDE...

KERBASH
AH... ARGH...
NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GENERATE ANYMORE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS WITH THOSE HORNS!!
AND HERE I COME!
R...RATS! HE CAUGHT ME!!
WHA-?!

ARRIGHT! WAY TO GO, PLUTO!!
CRUSH HIM TO PIECES!
SQUEEZE HIM! CRUNCH HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, PLUTO? JUST DO IT!!
VOOOOSH
HEY! WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, PLUTO! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE OFF!
VOOOOSH
ROOAAR

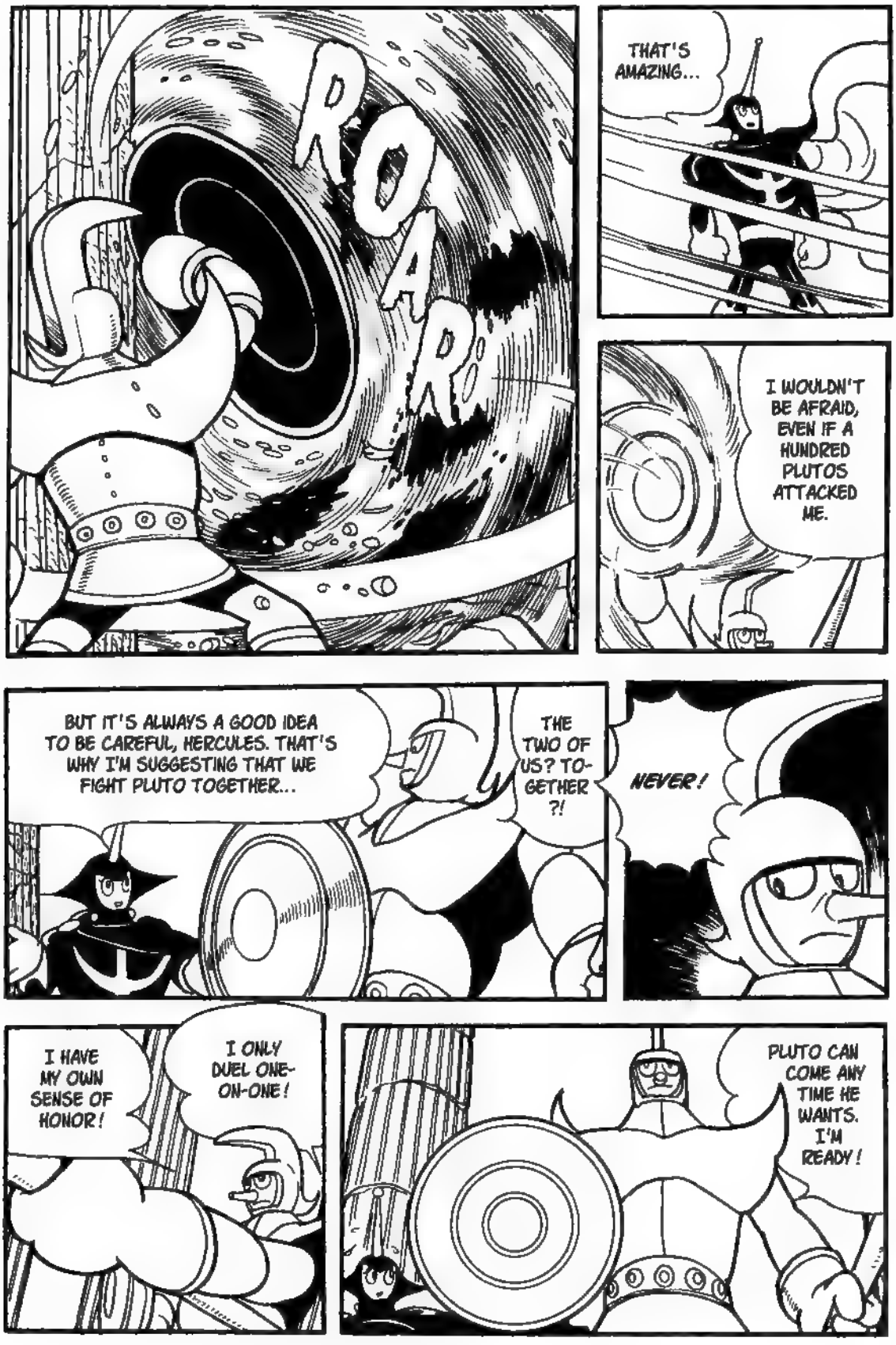
...
...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO CRUSH ME?
NO. ONCE BEFORE, YOU SAVED MY LIFE, ASTRO. NOW I SHALL SPARE YOURS.
WHA ?
REMEMBER? YOU PRESSED THE BUTTON ON MY CHEST, THEREBY SAVING ME ...
WE'RE EVEN, ASTRO...
SO NOW WE CAN GO TO IT AGAIN...
SOMETIME, BUT NOT NOW.
YOU ARE BRAVE, BUT GENTLE, TOO, ASTRO. I DON'T REALLY WANT TO FIGHT YOU. IT'S JUST MY MASTER'S ORDERS.
GO BACK TO JAPAN, ASTRO. GO HOME.
NO! I DON'T WANT TO!

I'VE GOTTA GO BACK TO SAVE PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!
DON'T BE RIDIC-ULOUS, ASTRO.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND MY POSITION...
YOU MUST FORGET ABOUT THE PROFESSOR FOR A WHILE...
BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM ...?
I WILL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR HIM, UNTIL WE NEXT MEET...
THAT BETTER BE A PROMISE...
GOSH... I JUST HOPE...
...THE PROFES-SOR WILL FORGIVE ME...
LET'S CALL THIS MATCH A DRAW. YOU BROKE OFF ONE OF MY HORNS, AND I CAUGHT YOU. NEXT TIME I'LL DESTROY YOU.

LOOK! PLUTO'S COMING BACK!
ALL RIGHT, PLUTO! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, AND WHAT HAPPENED WITH ASTRO BOY?
I LET HIM GO, SULTAN ...
YOU WHAT?!!
YOU SAY YOU EVEN CAUGHT HIM?!! WHAT'VE YOU DONE?!
WHY'D YOU LET HIM GO, YOU BIG BLOCKHEAD!!?
IF YOU WERE TEN FEET SHORTER, I'D WHUP YOUR BEEHIND!
LISTEN, SULTAN... MAYBE IT'S A GOOD THING HE LET HIM GO... LOOK, HE'S COME BACK WOUNDED...
AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU HERE AS A HOSTAGE, ASTRO'LL BE SURE TO COME... HEH HEH.
GREECE. IN THE RUINS OF THE ANCIENT ACROPOLIS.

ARE YOU *HERCULES*?
YES, AND ARE YOU *EPSILON*, FROM AUSTRALIA?
I HAVE HEARD YOUR NAME. YOU HAVE TRAVELED FAR.
AND I, TOO, HAVE HEARD YOUR NAME THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA. THEY SAY YOU ARE THE GREATEST ROBOT IN ALL GREECE, IF NOT THE WORLD.
WHAT YOU HEAR IS TRUE. I AM INDEED THE GREATEST, MOST POWERFUL ROBOT ON EARTH.
WELL, *PLUTO* HAS SENT BOTH OF US THIS CHALLENGE.

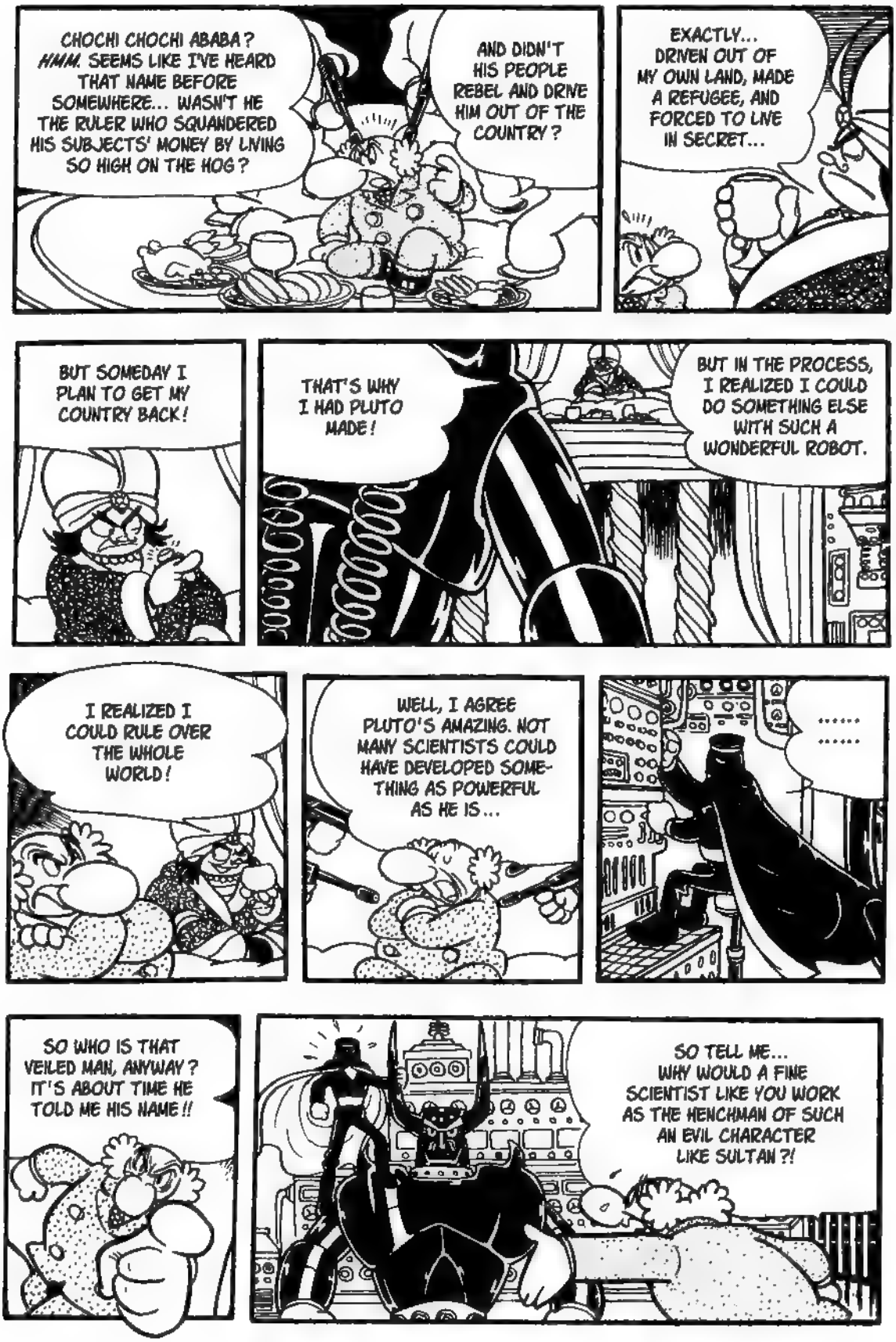
I request the favor of a duel with you at the Acropolis, in Athens, Greece, on august 8th.
—Pluto
I WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS TERRIBLE LETTER WITH YOU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ARE YOU AFRAID OF PLUTO?
AND YOU, HERCULES... ARE YOU NOT AFRAID?
WATCH THIS, EPSILON...
NOW WATCH THIS...
FWISH
SMASH
WHEEEEEEEE!


ROAR
THAT'S AMAZING...
I WOULDN'T BE AFRAID, EVEN IF A HUNDRED PLUTOS ATTACKED ME.
BUT IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO BE CAREFUL, HERCULES. THAT'S WHY I'M SUGGESTING THAT WE FIGHT PLUTO TOGETHER...
THE TWO OF US? TO-GETHER ?!
NEVER!
I HAVE MY OWN SENSE OF HONOR!
I ONLY DUEL ONE-ON-ONE!
PLUTO CAN COME ANY TIME HE WANTS. I'M READY!

WHOOOSH
ASTRO!! YOU'RE BACK!
I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, ASTRO?
I'M SORRY, URAN. PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S GOTTEN INTO AN AWFUL FIX. HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED BY PLUTO'S MASTER!!
I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM SOMEHOW!!
WHO'S THERE?!
DR. TENMA?!!
DR. TENMA! GOSH, YOU SHOWED UP JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME!! I JUST CAME BACK MYSELF!
I HEARD WHAT'S GOING ON, ASTRO!

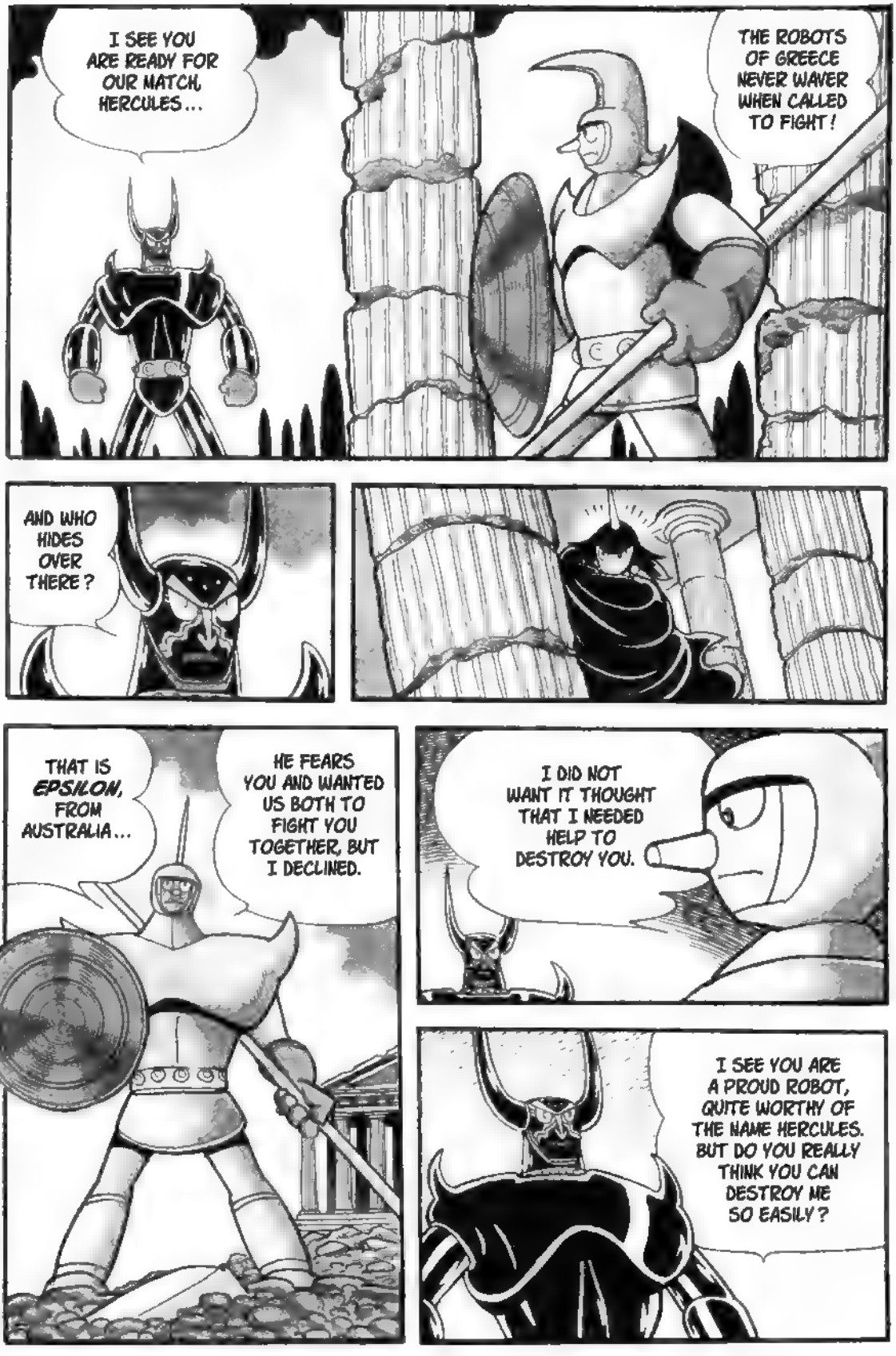
YOU WANT TO HAVE ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER, RIGHT, ASTRO?
TO TAKE ON A ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER ROBOT, IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S BEST TO HAVE THE SAME POWER... STILL, I'M NOT SURE IT'S POSSIBLE WITH YOUR BODY...
...BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO, I'LL TRY TO MODIFY YOU...
.....
.....
THEN YOU'LL REALLY BE ABLE TO WHIP PLUTO, HUH, ASTRO!?
IT'S DANGEROUS TO HAVE THAT MUCH POWER IN SUCH A SMALL BODY, BUT MAYBE I COULD MODIFY YOU JUST FOR THE FIGHT WITH PLUTO.
NO, ASTRO, NO! YOU'RE FINE WITH ONLY ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND HORSEPOWER!!
AH... ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER... AAAH...

ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER
ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER
I'LL DO IT!
OKAY, DR. TENMA, I'M READY TO BE MODIFIED!
MEANWHILE, THE SULTAN HAD LEFT PLUTO'S REPAIRS UP TO DR. ABULLAH AND WAS BUSY ENTERTAINING HIMSELF.
LOOK AT THIS SLIDE, PROFESSOR. IT SHOWS WHAT USED TO BE MY COUNTRY!
I RULED OVER IT AS SULTAN, AS CHOCHI CHOCHI ABABA THE THIRD!

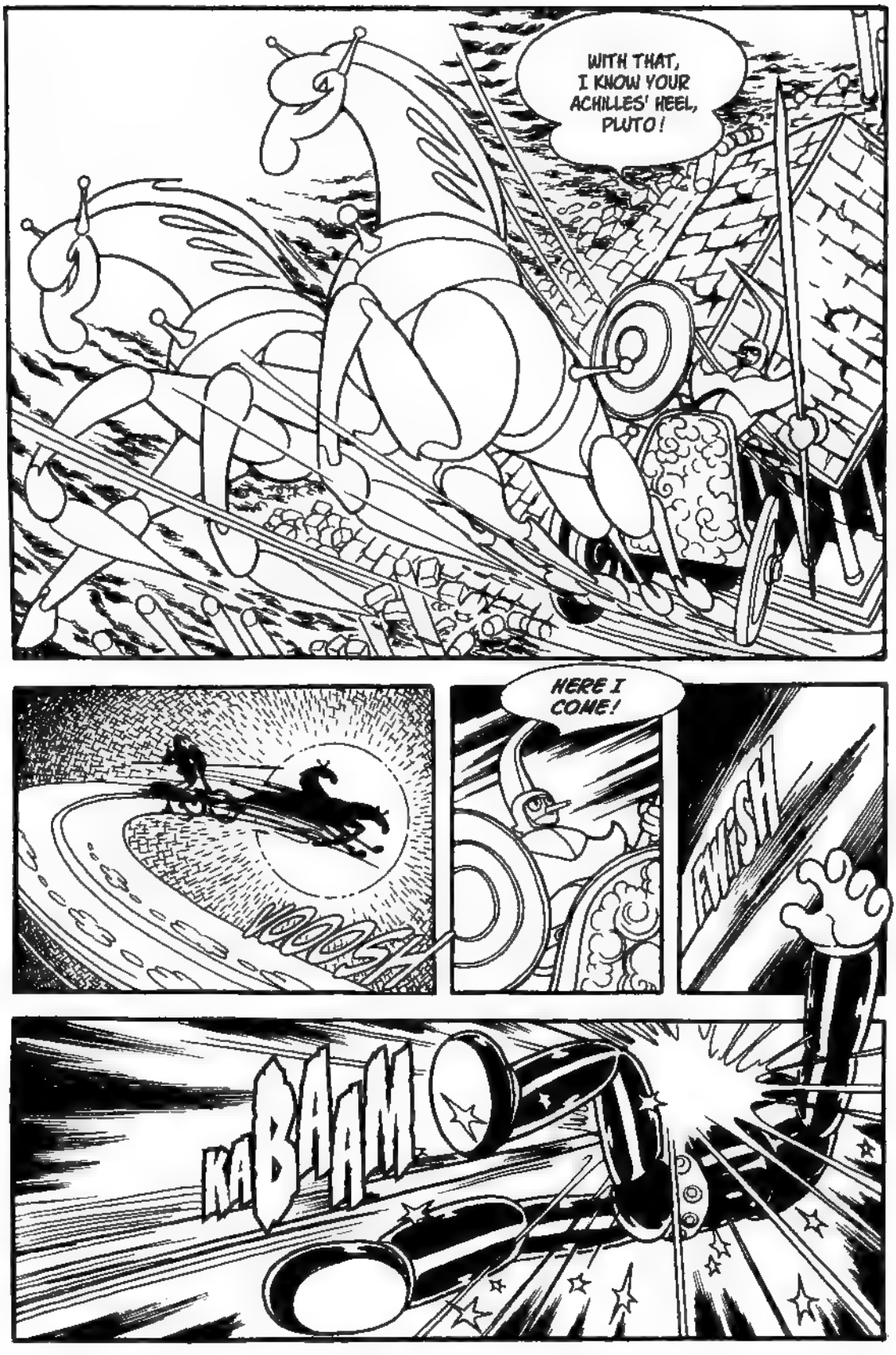

CHOCHI CHOCHI ABABA? HMM. SEEMS LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE SOMEWHERE... WASN'T HE THE RULER WHO SQUANDERED HIS SUBJECTS' MONEY BY LIVING SO HIGH ON THE HOG?
AND DIDN'T HIS PEOPLE REBEL AND DRIVE HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY?
EXACTLY... DRIVEN OUT OF MY OWN LAND, MADE A REFUGEE, AND FORCED TO LIVE IN SECRET...
BUT SOMEDAY I PLAN TO GET MY COUNTRY BACK!
THAT'S WHY I HAD PLUTO MADE!
BUT IN THE PROCESS, I REALIZED I COULD DO SOMETHING ELSE WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL ROBOT.
I REALIZED I COULD RULE OVER THE WHOLE WORLD!
WELL, I AGREE PLUTO'S AMAZING. NOT MANY SCIENTISTS COULD HAVE DEVELOPED SOMETHING AS POWERFUL AS HE IS...
.....
.....
SO WHO IS THAT VEILED MAN, ANYWAY? IT'S ABOUT TIME HE TOLD ME HIS NAME!!
SO TELL ME... WHY WOULD A FINE SCIENTIST LIKE YOU WORK AS THE HENCHMAN OF SUCH AN EVIL CHARACTER LIKE SULTAN?!

I'VE FINALLY FIXED PLUTO, SULTAN.
HE'S READY TO TAKE ON HIS NEXT OPPONENT...
HE AWAITS YOUR NEXT COMMAND.
OKAY, PLUTO... GO FORTH!
YOUR NEXT MATCH IS WITH HERCULES, IN ATHENS, GREECE!
HA HA HA HA! YOU'RE THE KING OF THE ROBOTS, PLUTO! COME BACK VICTORIOUS!

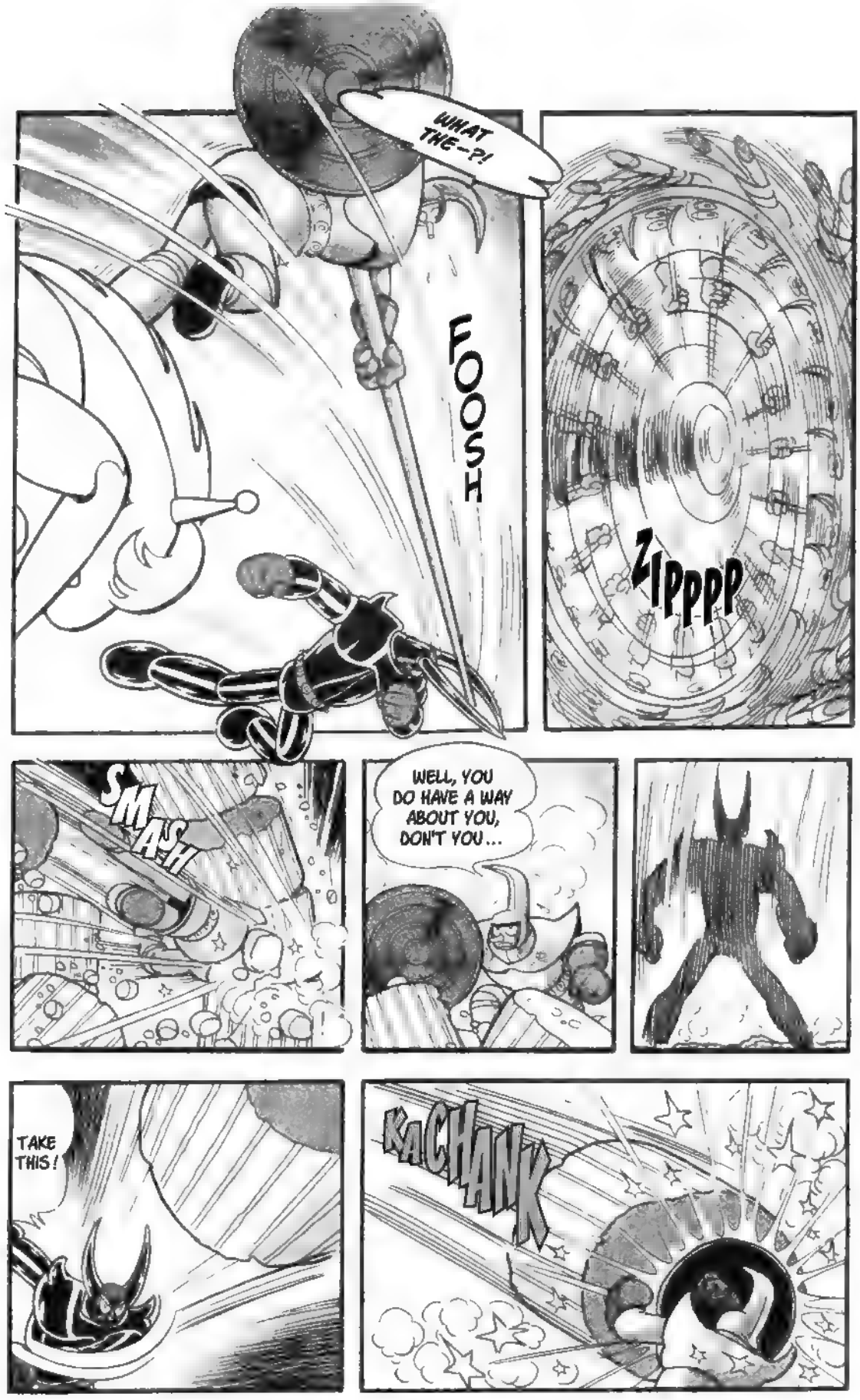
MEANWHILE, IN GREECE...
OKAY, HERCULES... HERE COMES PLUTO...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, PLUTO! AND NOW I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU WHO'S THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH! EN GARDE!

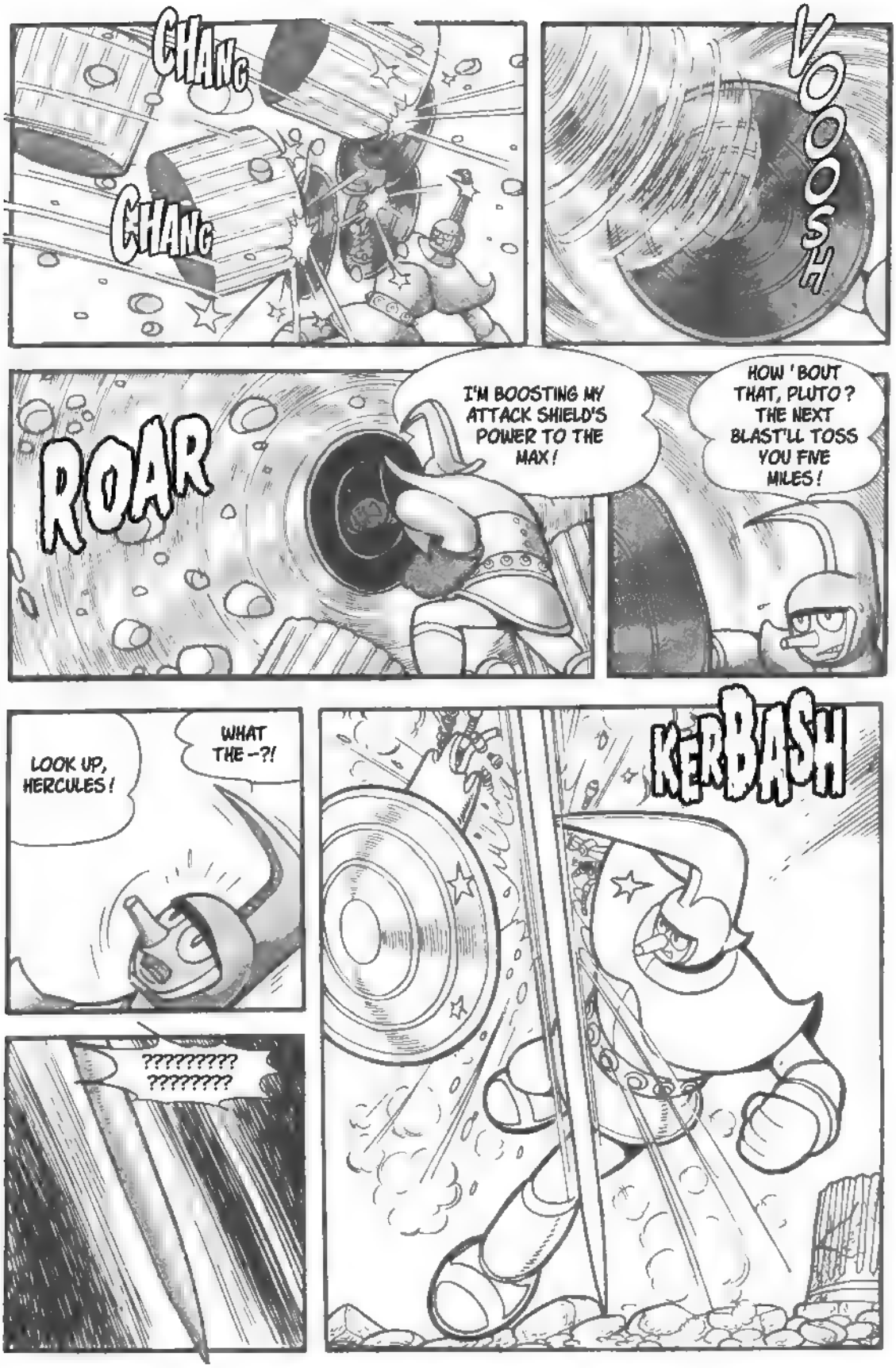

I SEE YOU ARE READY FOR OUR MATCH, HERCULES...
THE ROBOTS OF GREECE NEVER WAVER WHEN CALLED TO FIGHT!
AND WHO HIDES OVER THERE?
THAT IS EPSILON, FROM AUSTRALIA...
HE FEARS YOU AND WANTED US BOTH TO FIGHT YOU TOGETHER, BUT I DECLINED.
I DID NOT WANT IT THOUGHT THAT I NEEDED HELP TO DESTROY YOU.
I SEE YOU ARE A PROUD ROBOT, QUITE WORTHY OF THE NAME HERCULES. BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DESTROY ME SO EASILY?

IN TEN MINUTES YOU SHALL KNOW THE ANSWER...
VERY WELL, THEN. LET US BEGIN...
VOOOOSH
I SEE YOU FLY THROUGH THE AIR USING YOUR ARMS, PLUTO... BUT IN THAT CASE YOU CAN'T USE THEM WHILE FLYING...
VOOMP
HMPH.


WITH THAT, I KNOW YOUR ACHILLES' HEEL, PLUTO!
WOOSH
HERE I COME!
SWISH
KABAAM

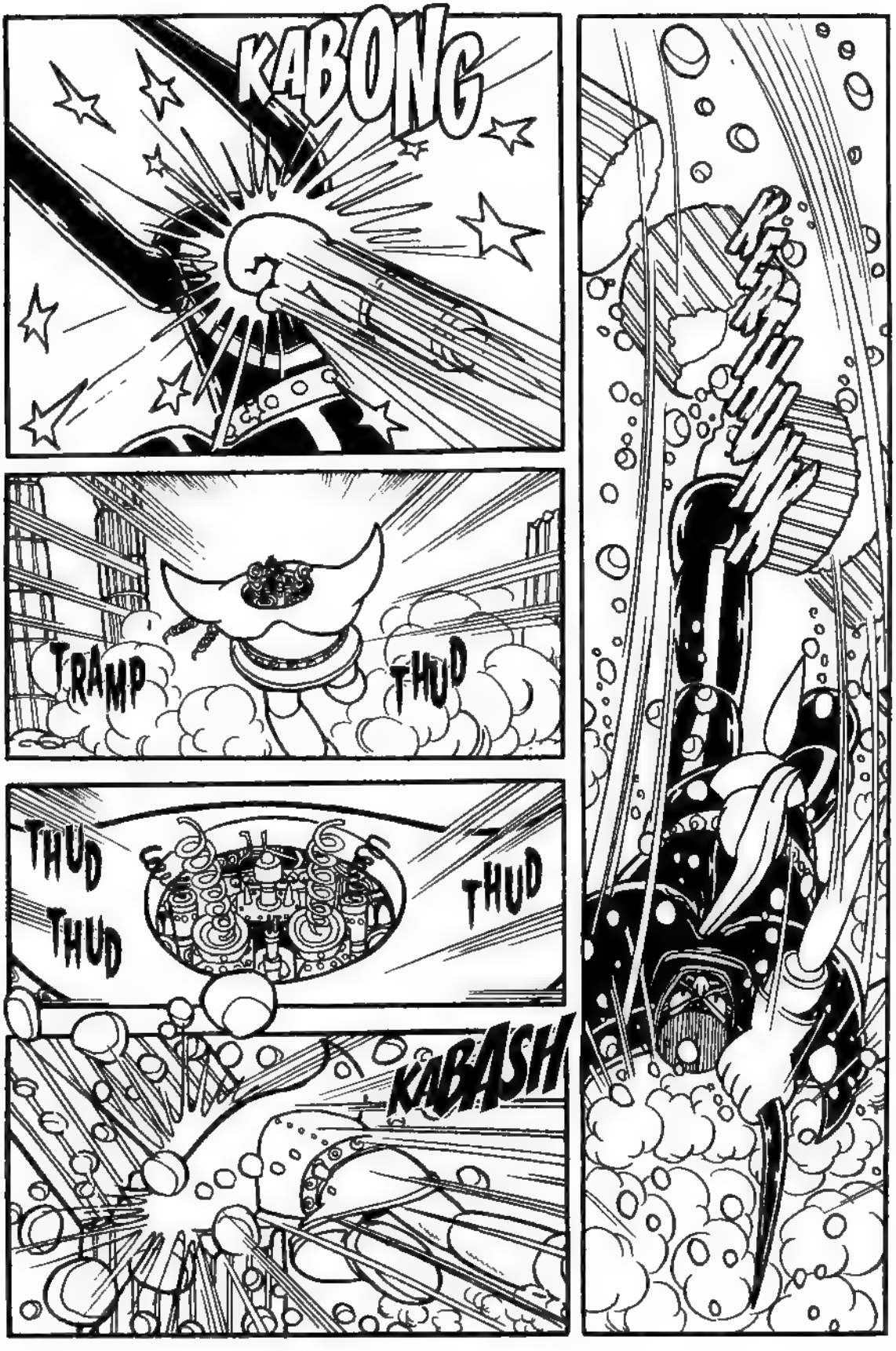
VOOOSH
HERE WE GO AT IT AGAIN!
SLAM
HEH HEH
VOOSH
CHANK


WHAT THE—?!
FOOSH
ZIPPPP
SMASH
WELL, YOU DO HAVE A WAY ABOUT YOU, DON'T YOU...
TAKE THIS!
KACHANK

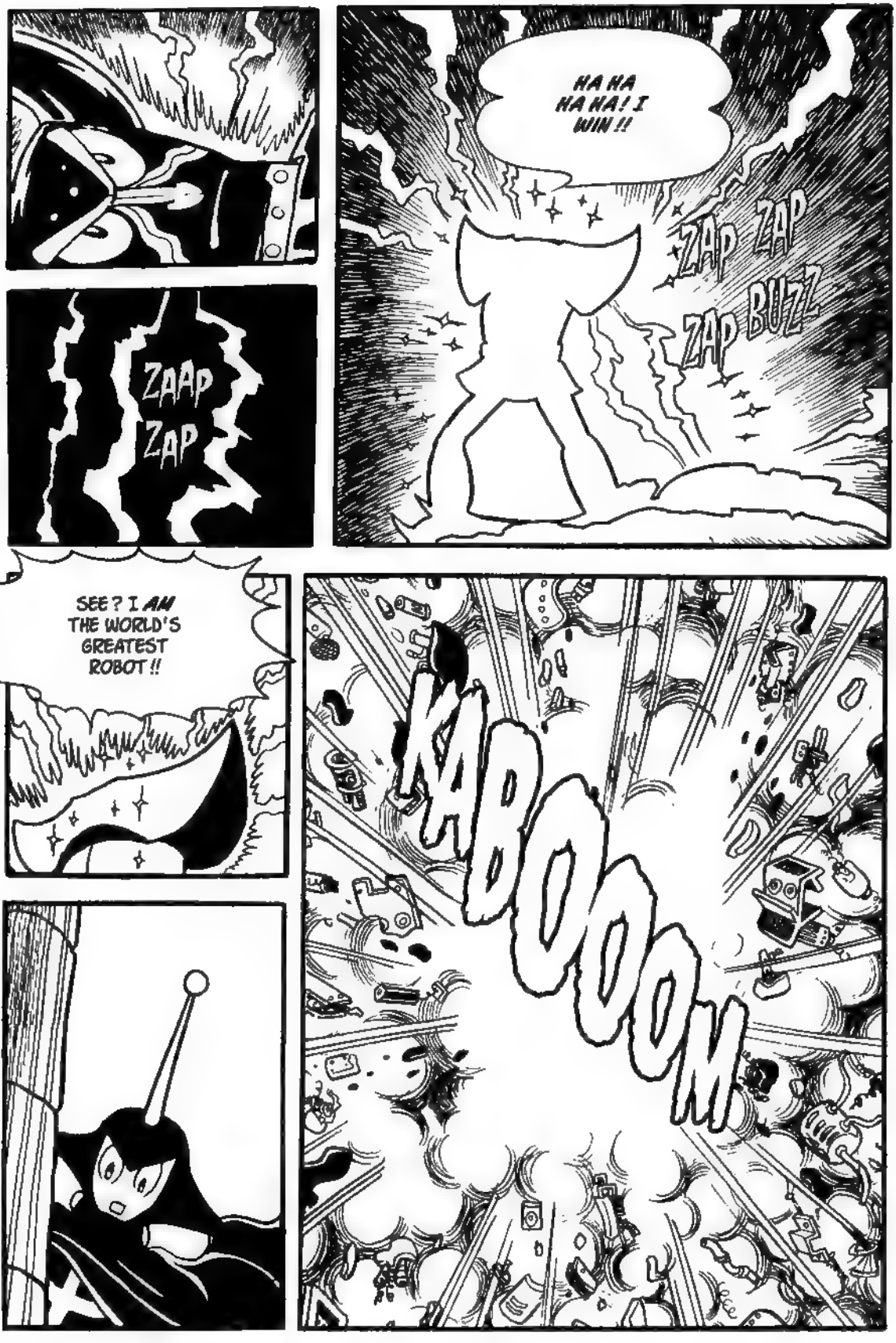

CHANG
CHANG
VOOOSH
ROAR
I'M BOOSTING MY ATTACK SHIELD'S POWER TO THE MAX!
HOW 'BOUT THAT, PLUTO? THE NEXT BLAST'LL TOSS YOU FIVE MILES!
LOOK UP, HERCULES!
WHAT THE -?!
????????
????????
KERBASH

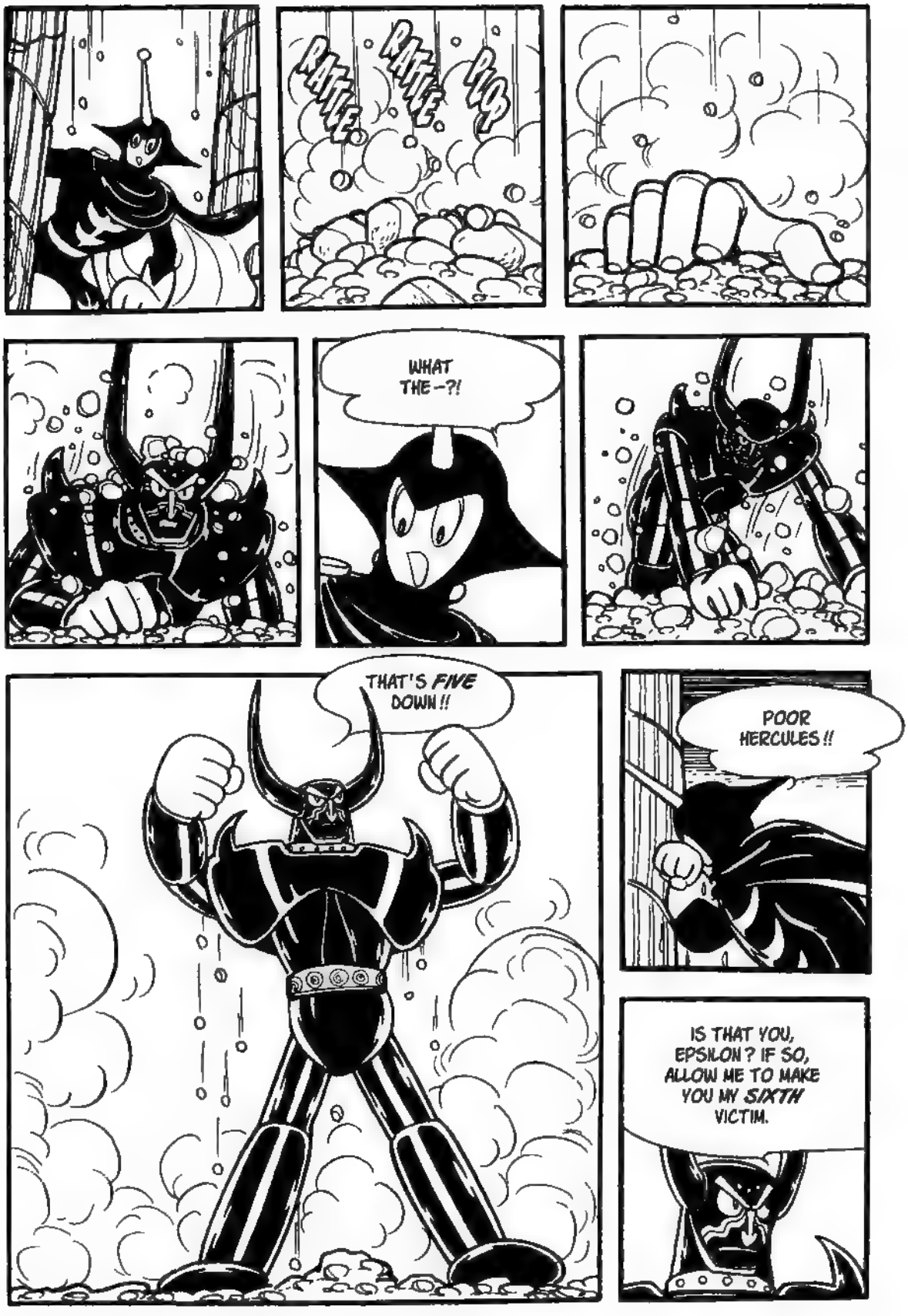
YE GADS...
HA HA HA!
HERE, I GIVE YOU BACK YOUR SPEAR!
SHOONK
HMPH. DON'T BE SO SURE!
SNAP
YOU TOOK MY SPEAR ONCE...
...SO I SHALL NOT USE IT AGAIN!

HMPH... YOU ACT TOUGH... BUT WHAT'LL YOU DO WITHOUT ANY WEAPONS?
SHWOOSH
IN ANCIENT TROY, WARRIORS PREFERRED DEATH OVER PITY FROM THEIR ENEMIES!
KABAASH


KABONG
TRAMP
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
KABASH

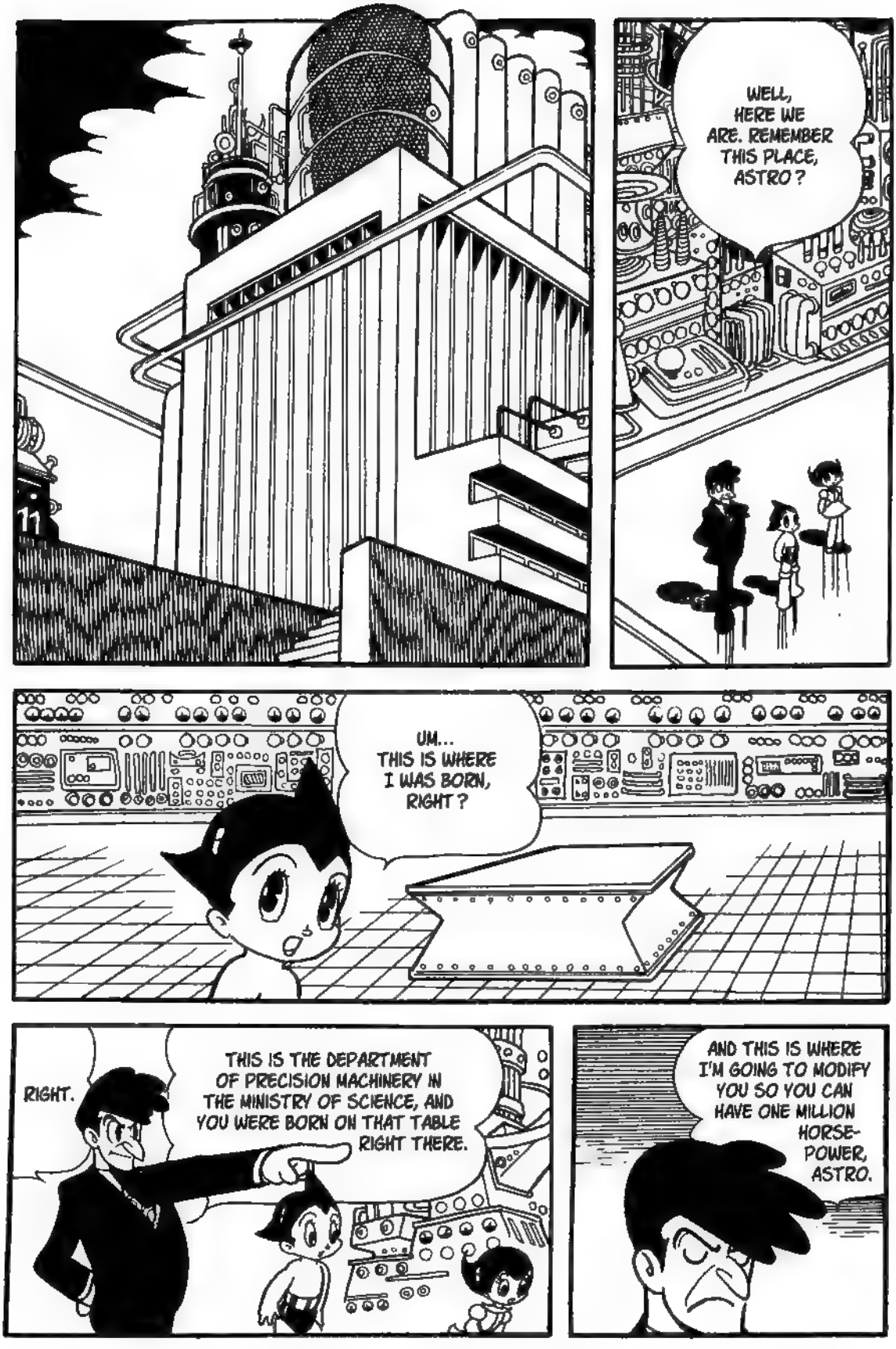
HERE I COME!
CHANK
THE REAL SHOWDOWN STARTS NOW, PLUTO!
MY BODY WILL SEND SPECIAL ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSES INTO YOU, BUT WILL YOU BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THEM?
IF YOU CANNOT, YOU WILL EXPLODE. BUT IF I LOSE, I SHALL EXPLODE.
ZAAP
ZAAP


HA HA HA HA! I WIN!!
ZAP ZAP ZAP BUZZ
ZAAP ZAP
SEE? I AM THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROBOT!!
KABOOOM

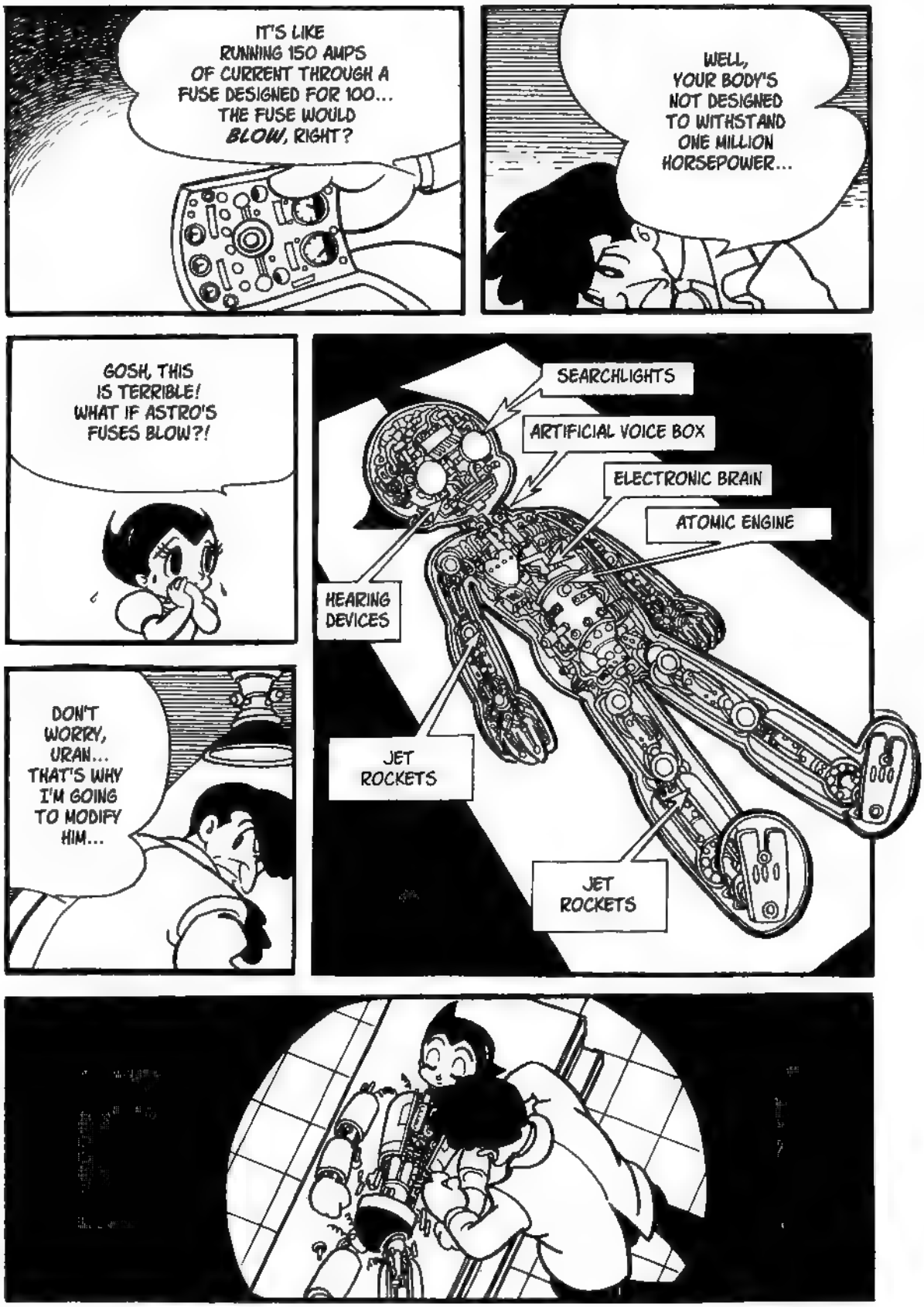

RATTLE
RATTLE
RUP
WHAT THE—?!
THAT'S *FIVE* DOWN!!
POOR HERCULES!!
IS THAT YOU, EPSILON? IF SO, ALLOW ME TO MAKE YOU MY *SIXTH* VICTIM.

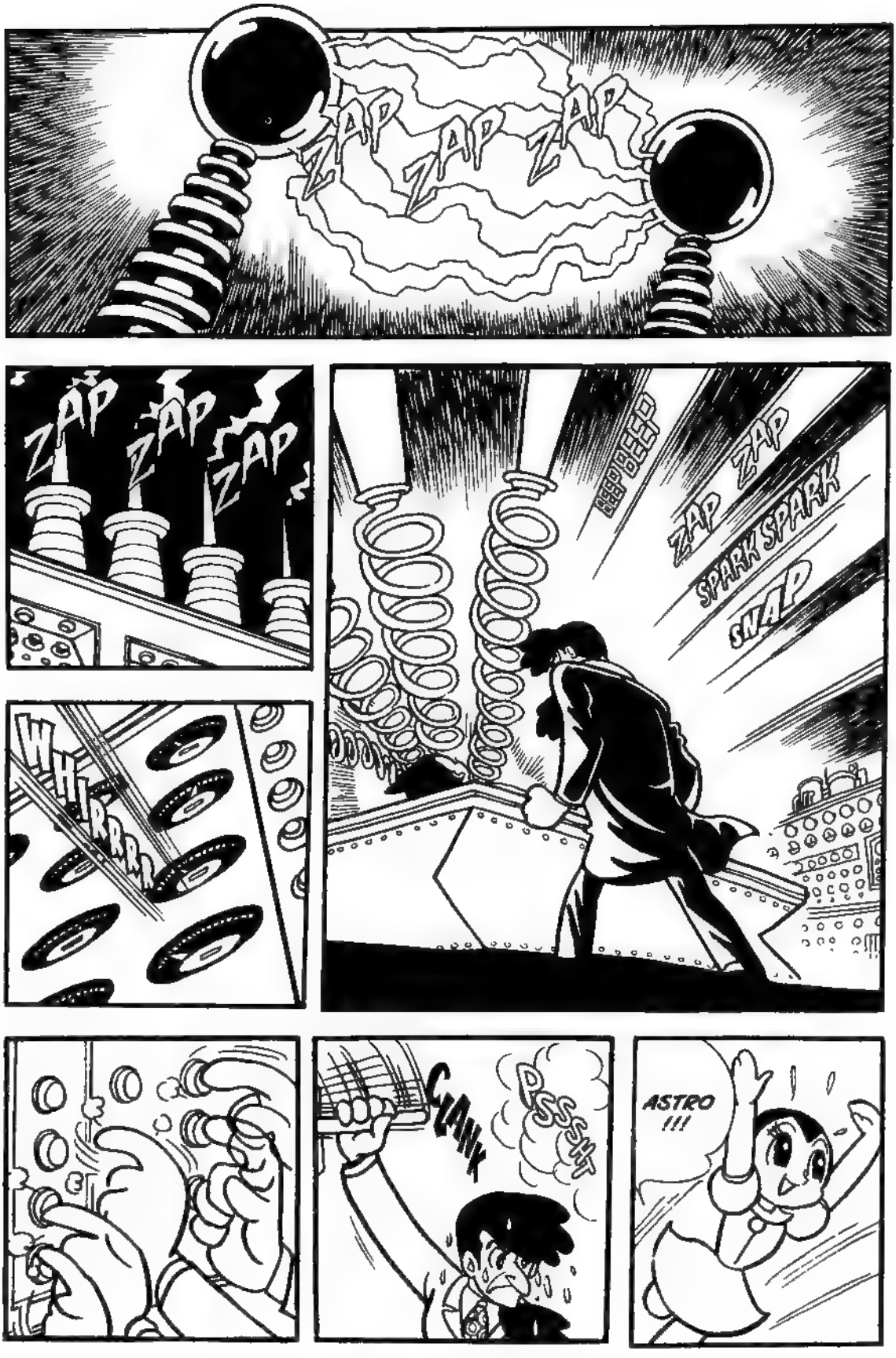
UH OH...
COME OUT, EPSILON. LET'S GET IT OVER WITH...
IF IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY, LET THE DUEL TAKE PLACE IN MY COUNTRY.
KOOOSH
VERY WELL...
I SHALL FLY TO AUSTRALIA AND MEET YOU THERE...
I GUESS MY NUMBER'S FINALLY UP...

HERCULES HAD 400,000 HORSEPOWER AND PLUTO STILL TROUNCED HIM... I DON'T HAVE A HOPE.
I DON'T LIKE FIGHTING, BUT IF I MUST...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...I'D FIRST LIKE TO SAY FAREWELL TO THE CHILDREN IN MY COUNTRY.
...TO MY DEAR PUPILS...
ZUMMM
WOOOSH


11
WELL, HERE WE ARE. REMEMBER THIS PLACE, ASTRO?
UM... THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
THIS IS THE DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, AND YOU WERE BORN ON THAT TABLE RIGHT THERE.
AND THIS IS WHERE I'M GOING TO MODIFY YOU SO YOU CAN HAVE ONE MILLION HORSE-POWER, ASTRO.

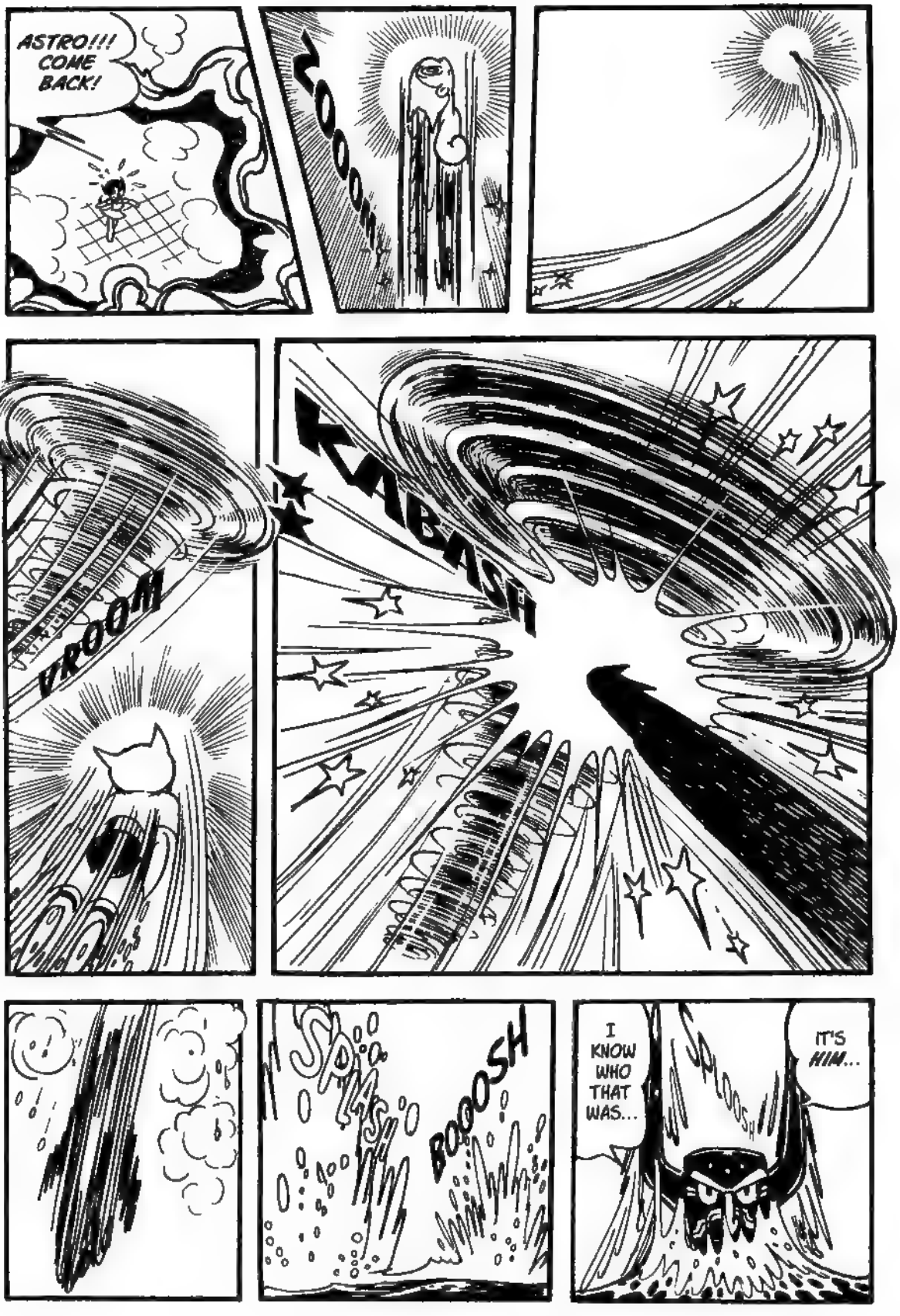
BUT GOSH, DR. TENMA... I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO USE THE MACHINERY HERE WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION...
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, ASTRO.
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. THIS IS TO HELP HIM! I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY!
GEE, ASTRO! JUST THINK! SOON YOU'LL HAVE ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER!
YEAH... I GUESS SO...
THIS IS SO COOL!
I WONDER HOW STRONG YOU'LL BE WITH A MILLION HORSEPOWER!? YOU COULD PROB'LY PUNCH OUT THE WHOLE EARTH!
ASTRO! COME LIE DOWN HERE!
I'VE GOT TO WARN YOU, ASTRO...
IF I INCREASE YOUR HORSEPOWER FROM ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TO A MILLION...
YOUR BODY MAY GO BERSERK...
WHA P!

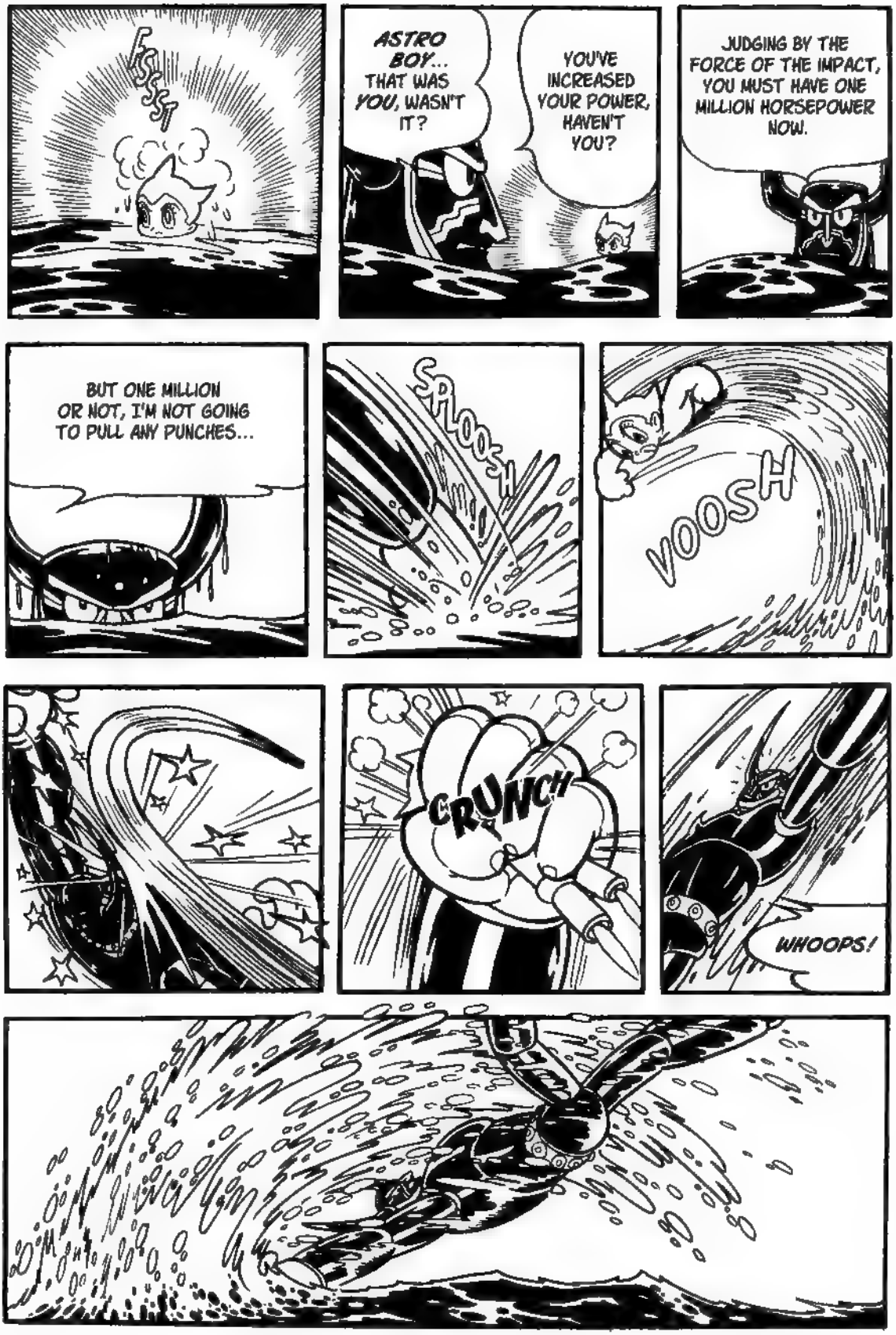

IT'S LIKE RUNNING 150 AMPS OF CURRENT THROUGH A FUSE DESIGNED FOR 100... THE FUSE WOULD *BLOW*, RIGHT?
WELL, YOUR BODY'S NOT DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER...
GOSH, THIS IS TERRIBLE! WHAT IF ASTRO'S FUSES BLOW?!
SEARCHLIGHTS
ARTIFICIAL VOICE BOX
ELECTRONIC BRAIN
ATOMIC ENGINE
HEARING DEVICES
JET ROCKETS
JET ROCKETS
DON'T WORRY, URAN... THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO MODIFY HIM...

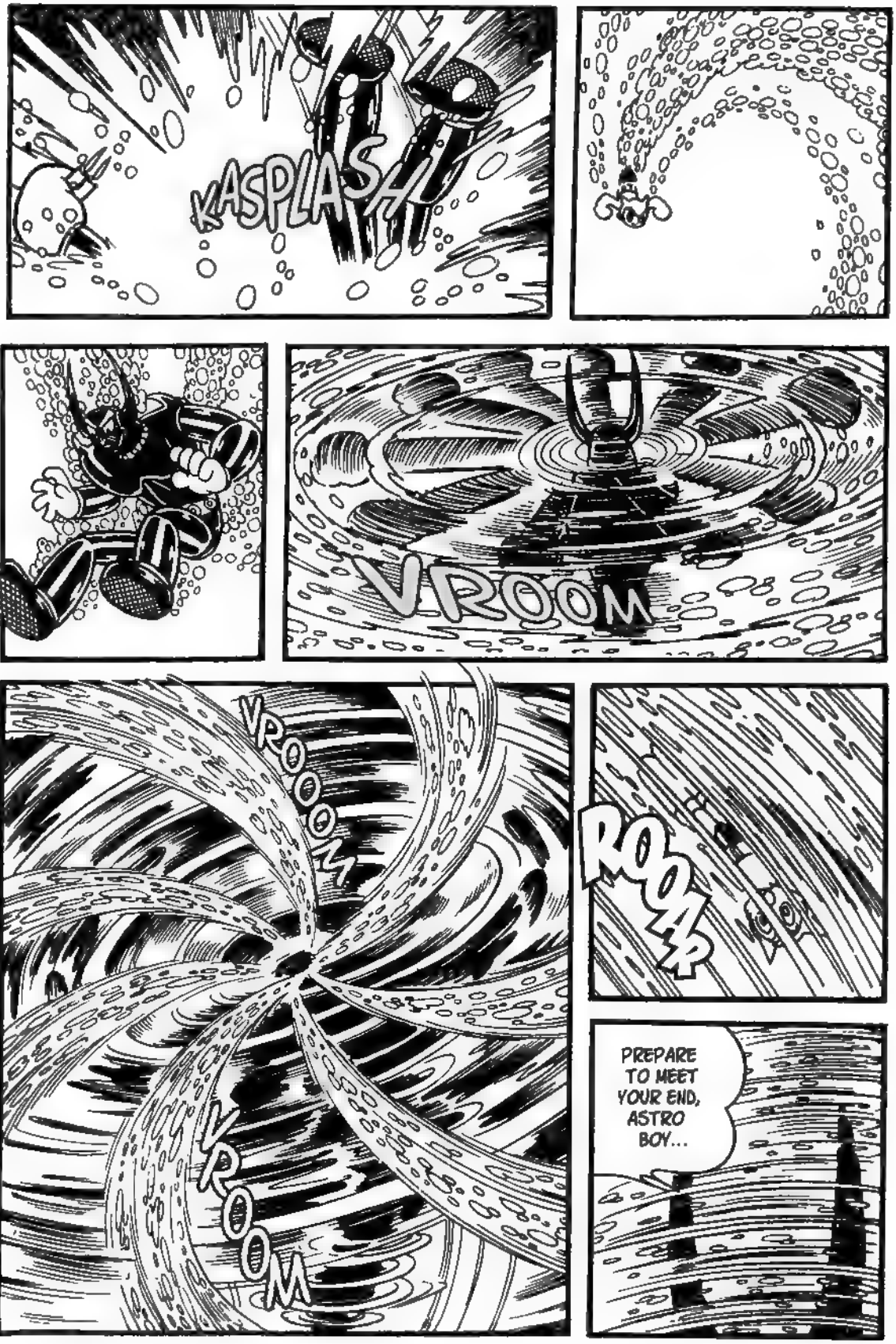

ZAP ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP ZAP
BEEP BEEP
ZAP ZAP
SPARK SPARK
SNAP
WHIRRR
CLANK
DSSHT
ASTRO !!!

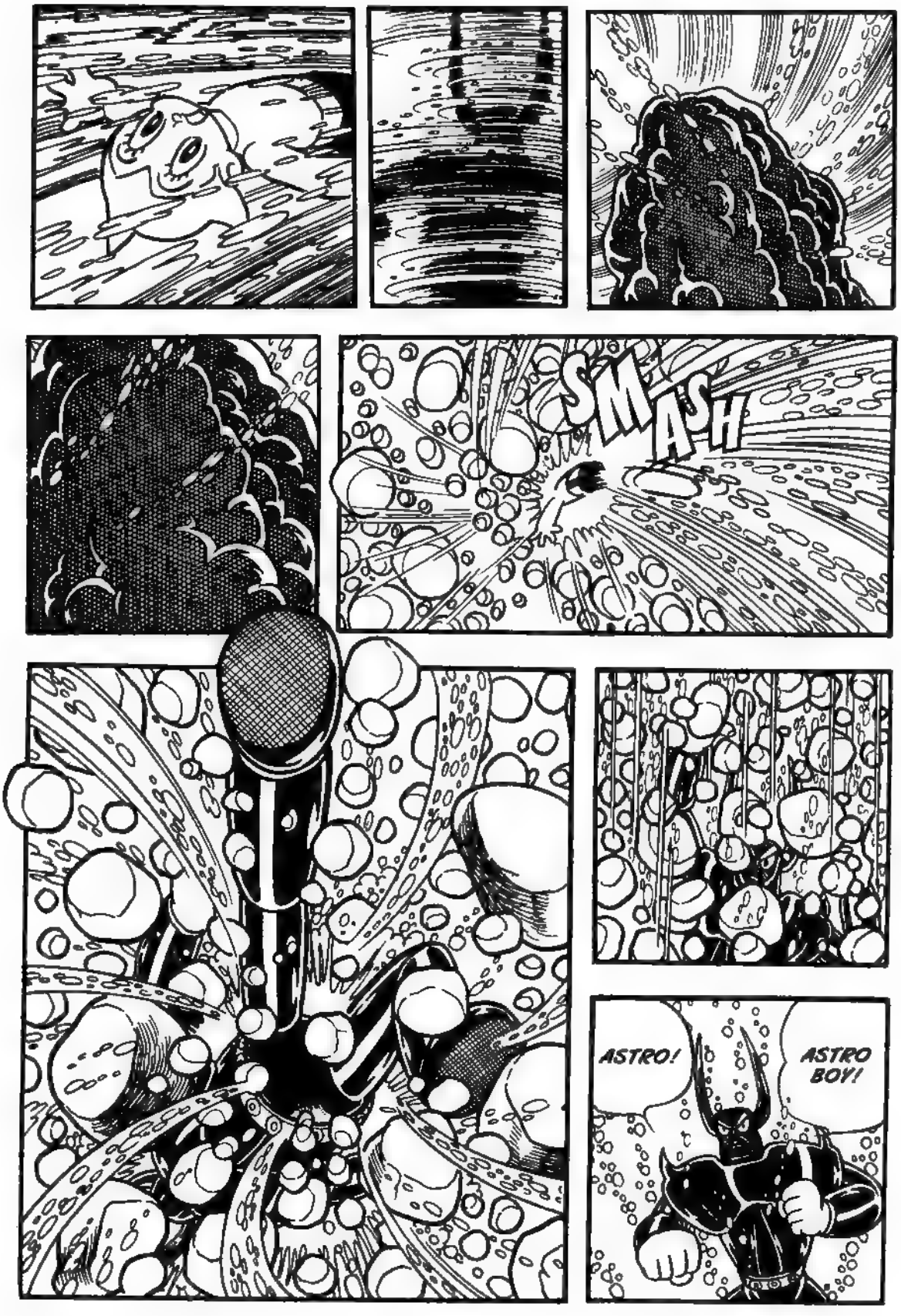
BACK, URAN! GET BACK!
ZAAP
SEE?! I TOLD YOU!!
EEK!! DON'T LOOK!!
IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG WITH THE MODIFICATIONS...
...WE COULD ALL BE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS!
HUMMM
HUMMMM
TICK
ASTRO !!!
SPRONG

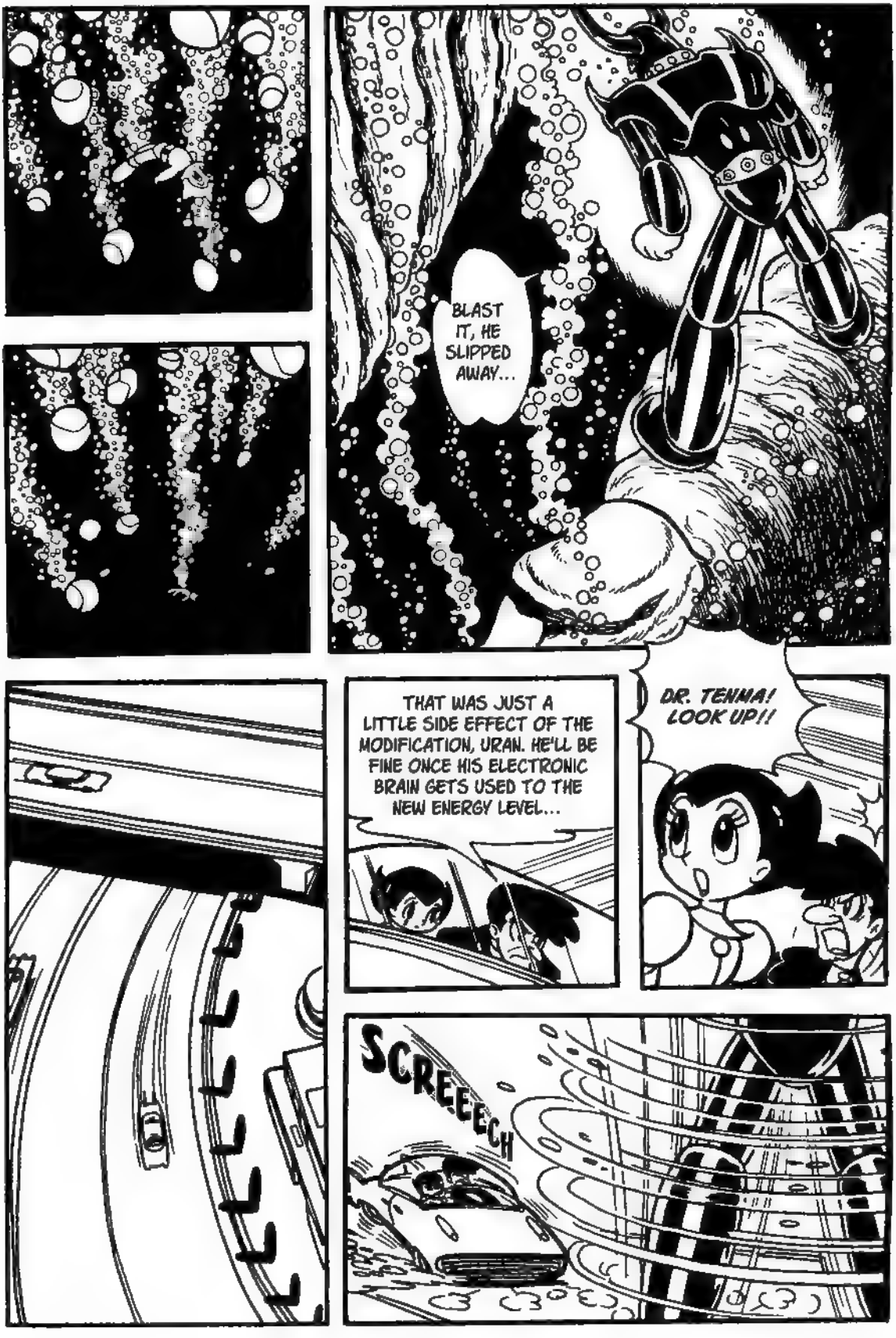
ASTRO! CAN YOU HEAR ME? EASY DOES IT... EASY DOES IT, BOY...
OH MY GOSH!
WOOSH
SMASH
KERBASH
KERSMASH
UH OH!! LOOKS LIKE HIS BRAIN'S GONE TEMPORARILY HAYWIRE!
SMASH
EEEK!!


ASTRO!!! COME BACK!
ZOOOM
VROOM
KABASH
SPLASH
BOOOSH
I KNOW WHO THAT WAS...
IT'S HIM...
SPLOOSH


FSSSSS
ASTRO BOY... THAT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
YOU'VE INCREASED YOUR POWER, HAVEN'T YOU?
JUDGING BY THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT, YOU MUST HAVE ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER NOW.
BUT ONE MILLION OR NOT, I'M NOT GOING TO PULL ANY PUNCHES...
SPLOOSH
VOOSH
CRUNCH
WHOOPS!

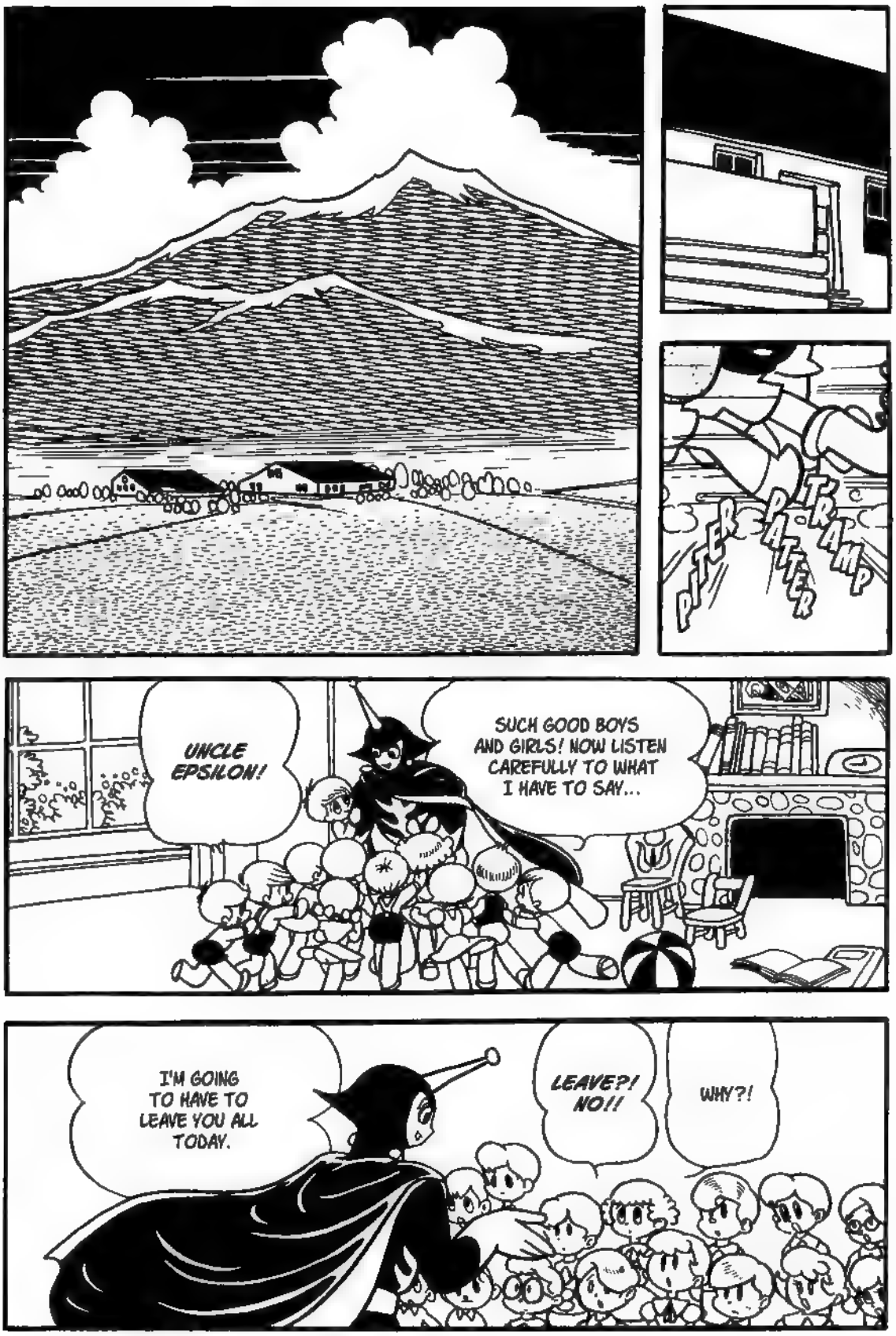

KASPLASH!
VROOM
VROOOM
VROOM
ROOAR
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR END, ASTRO BOY...


SMASH
ASTRO!
ASTRO BOY!


BLAST IT, HE SLIPPED AWAY...
THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE SIDE EFFECT OF THE MODIFICATION, URAN. HE'LL BE FINE ONCE HIS ELECTRONIC BRAIN GETS USED TO THE NEW ENERGY LEVEL...
DR. TENMA! LOOK UP!!
SCREEECH

DRAT! IT'S THAT PLUTO 'BOT!!
I WANT TO TALK WITH THAT GIRL!
ASTRO BOY IS GONE...
HE SANK INTO A DEEP UNDERSEA CANYON.
HE WHAT?!
IN HIS CONDITION, HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE SURFACE AGAIN...
NO! NO!!
YOU MUST BE JOKING... YOU MEAN YOU WON THE DUEL?
NO, ASTRO BOY CRASHED INTO A ROCK AND WAS BROKEN.
NO!!! WHY'D I TRY TO HELP HIM?! NOW I'VE LOST THE BEST ROBOT IN THE WHOLE WORLD!!!
I INCREASED HIS STRENGTH TO ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER BECAUSE I LOVED HIM AND WAS AFRAID YOU'D DESTROY HIM, BUT NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED!!
BE GONE, YOU MONSTER... I CAN'T STAND TO LOOK AT YOU...

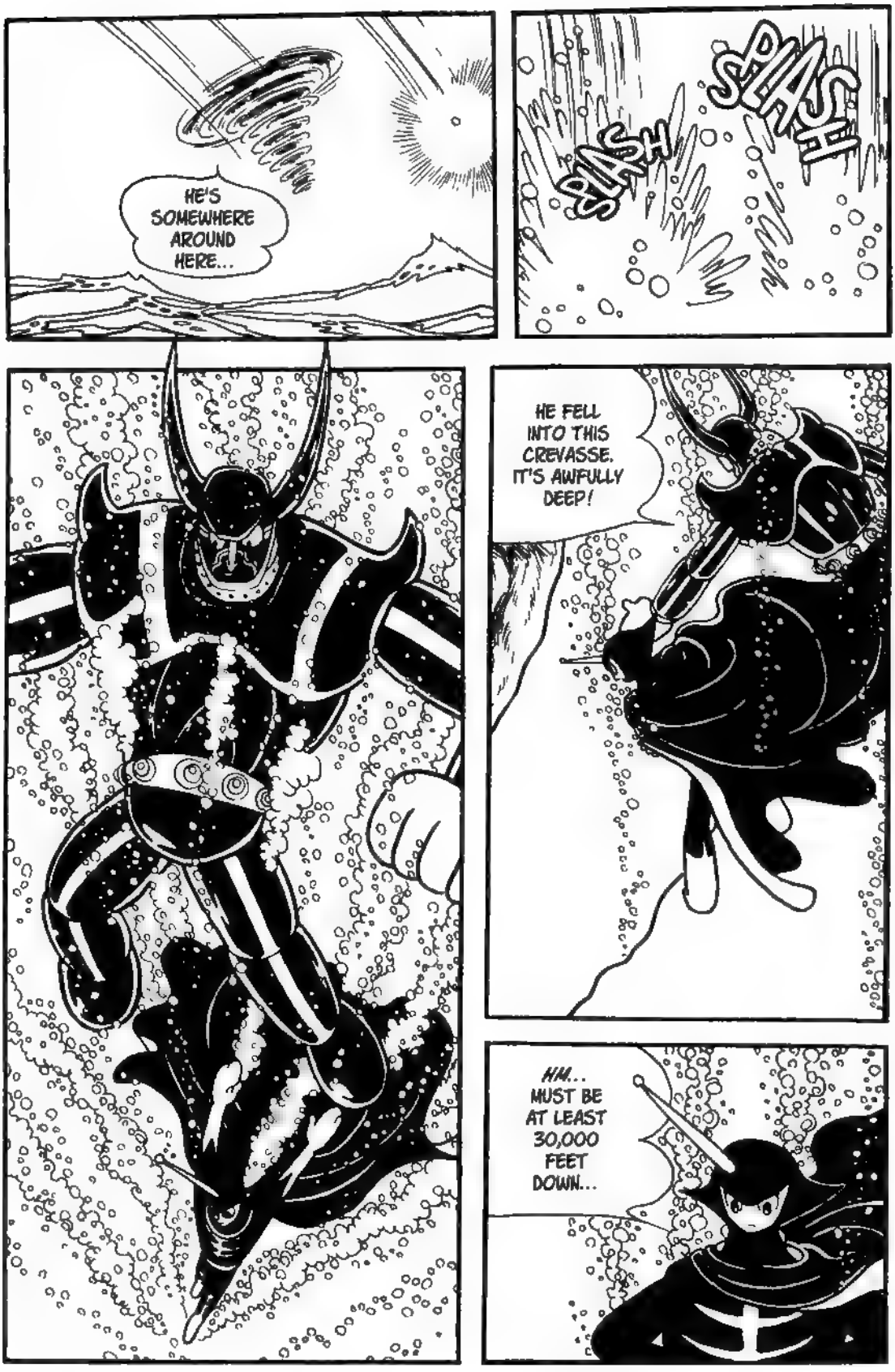
I AM SORRY, URAN...
I'D DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER...
...IF ONLY I COULD...
I WANT YOU TO FIND MY BROTHER!
AH, BUT HE'S IN WATERS OVER THREE THOUSAND FEET DEEP, BURIED IN MUD, URAN. I CAN'T GET HIM BACK.
WHY NOT? YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING!!
I WANT HIM BACK, NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
WELL, THEN. IF I DO FIND HIM AND BRING HIM BACK...
...WILL YOU PROMISE TO BE MY FRIEND?
YOU STUPID IDIOT, PLUTO!!
JUST GIVE ME BACK MY BROTHER! BRING HIM BACK!
VROOOM


PITTER
PATTER
TRAMP
UNCLE EPSILON!
SUCH GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS! NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU ALL TODAY.
LEAVE?! NO!!
WHY?!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T GO! WE WON'T LET YOU!
WE'LL CRY IF YOU LEAVE!
HOW COME? HOW COME YOU HAVE TO LEAVE?!
THE CHILDREN LOVE YOU SO, EPSILON. PLEASE STAY WITH US.
I'VE LIVED HERE WITH THEM FOR TEN YEARS, AND IF I COULD I'D STAY FOREVER...
...BUT I CAN'T. A ROBOT NAMED PLUTO'S COMING HERE AFTER ME...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL THE POLICE?!
I CAN'T. PLUTO AND I HAVE A DUEL SCHEDULED...
NO! NO!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE US, EPSILON! WAAAH!
GOOD BYE, LITTLE FRIENDS, GOOD BYE...

GOOD BYE, FRIEND.
SNIFF
WHAAA
WAHAAA
BAWL
SNIFF
WELL, PLUTO! HERE I AM, WAITING FOR YOU!
YOU'RE LATE! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

IF I'M TO DIE TODAY, LET IT AT LEAST BE IN MY BEAUTIFUL HOMELAND OF AUSTRALIA...
EPSILON. LET'S PUT THE DUEL ON HOLD. I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME...
WHAT?!
ASTRO BOY'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN, AND I HAVE TO SEARCH FOR HIM. HE MALFUNCTIONED AND SANK, AND I NEED YOU TO HELP LOOK FOR HIM...
YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
LET'S GO, THEN!
FLASH
FOLLOW ME, EPSILON...

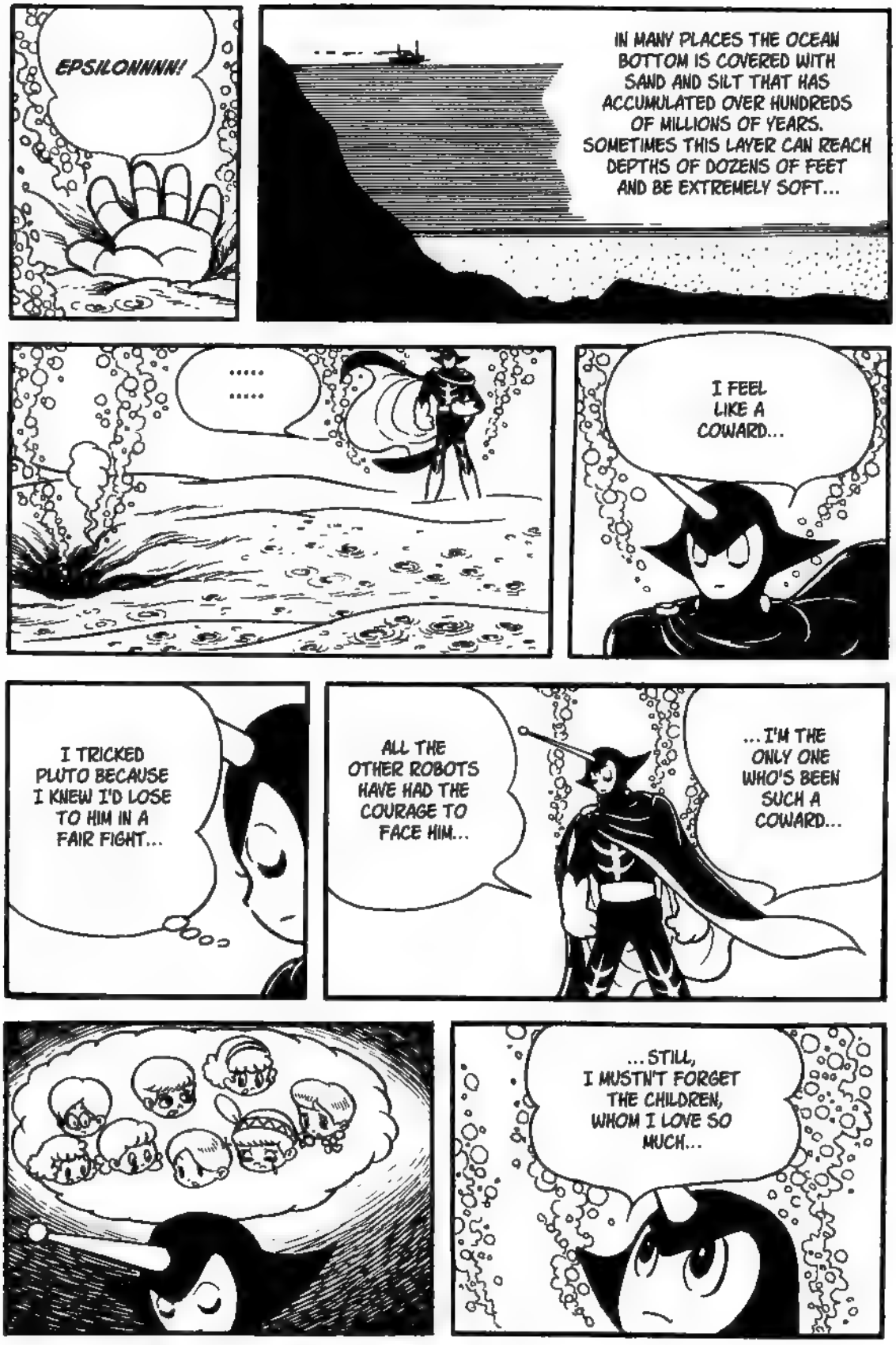

HE'S SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...
SPLASH
SPLASH
HE FELL INTO THIS CREVASSE. IT'S AWFULLY DEEP!
HM... MUST BE AT LEAST 30,000 FEET DOWN...

AT THAT DEPTH WE'LL BE CRUSHED BY THE WATER PRESSURE, OR EVEN EXPLODE...
BUT I'D BE PROUD TO TRY TO SAVE A WONDERFUL ROBOT LIKE ASTRO BOY...
I'LL ILLUMINATE THE WAY, IF YOU'LL LEAD THE SEARCH FOR HIM...
IT'S AS BRIGHT AS DAY, EPSILON...
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE OCEAN FLOOR. SEE ANYTHING, PLUTO?
THERE! THERE'S SOMETHING THERE!
IT'S ASTRO BOY! IT'S DEFINITELY HIM!
Glub Glub

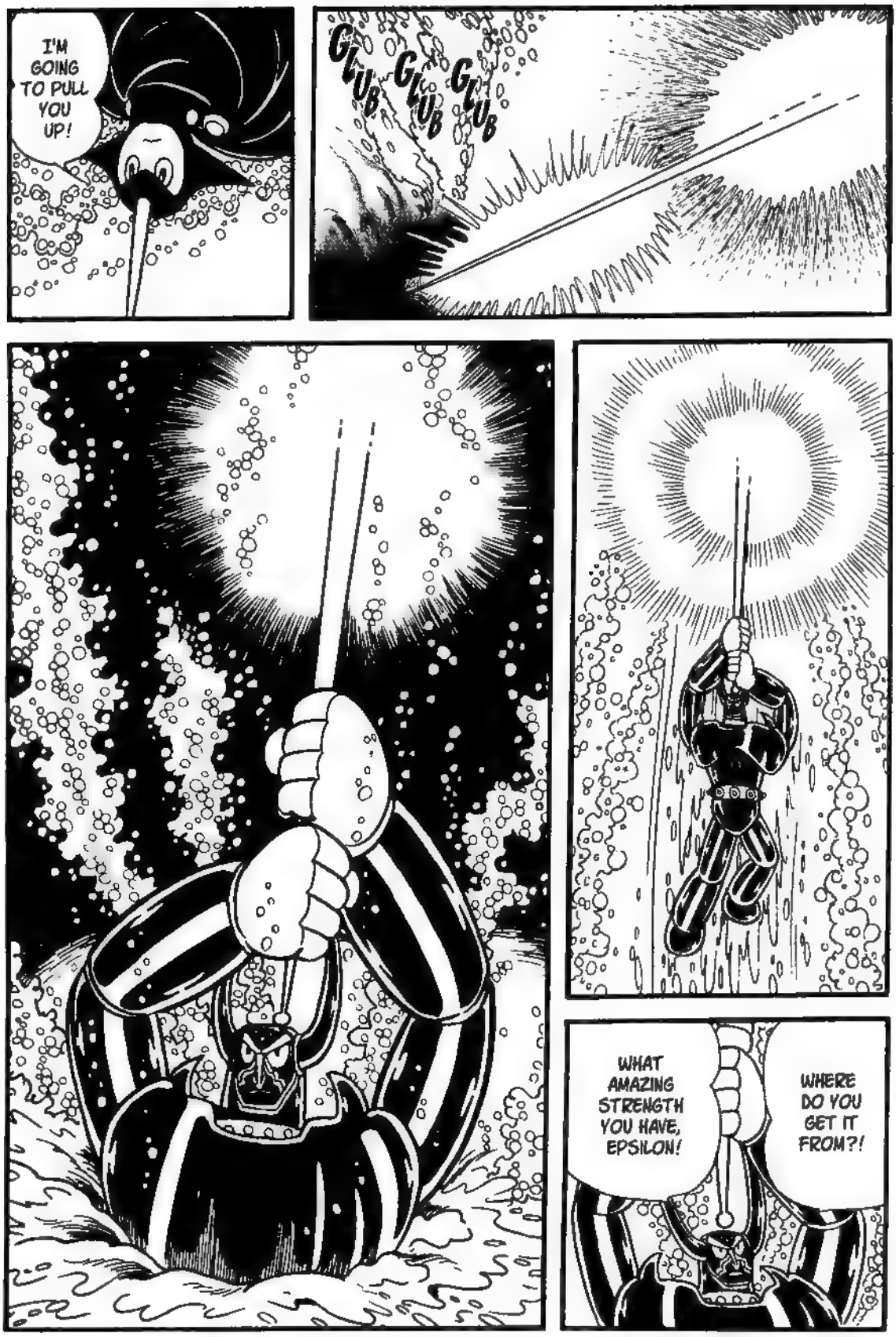
BE CAREFUL, PLUTO!
THE SILT ON THE SEA FLOOR'S AS SOFT AS SNOW, AND YOU'LL SINK...
IT'S SETTLED FROM THE SURFACE OVER HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS...
AH, BUT WHAT LUCK! WE'VE FOUND ASTRO!
IT'S AMAZING THAT HE DIDN'T SINK OUT OF SIGHT...
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S A LOT LIGHTER THAN YOU ARE, PLUTO.
HM... I JUST HAD AN IDEA...
IF I DISTRACTED PLUTO...
...AND LURED HIM INTO AN AREA WHERE THE SILT'S REALLY DEEP...

...HE'D SINK OUT OF SIGHT AND NEVER BE ABLE TO GET FREE...
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM IN A REGULAR DUEL...
...AND IF I GOT RID OF PLUTO, ASTRO AND I'D BE SAVED! NOW'S MY CHANCE!!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM, EPSILON... DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIX HIM?
LOOKS LIKE ABOUT THREE OF HIS CIRCUITS HAVE BLOWN...
THINK HE'LL BE OKAY IF THEY'RE FIXED?
WHOOPS!
PLOP
THERE HE GOES... HERE'S HOPING IT'S THE END OF HIM...
UH OH... ONE OF HIS PARTS FELL OUT... COULD YOU GET IT FOR ME, PLUTO?

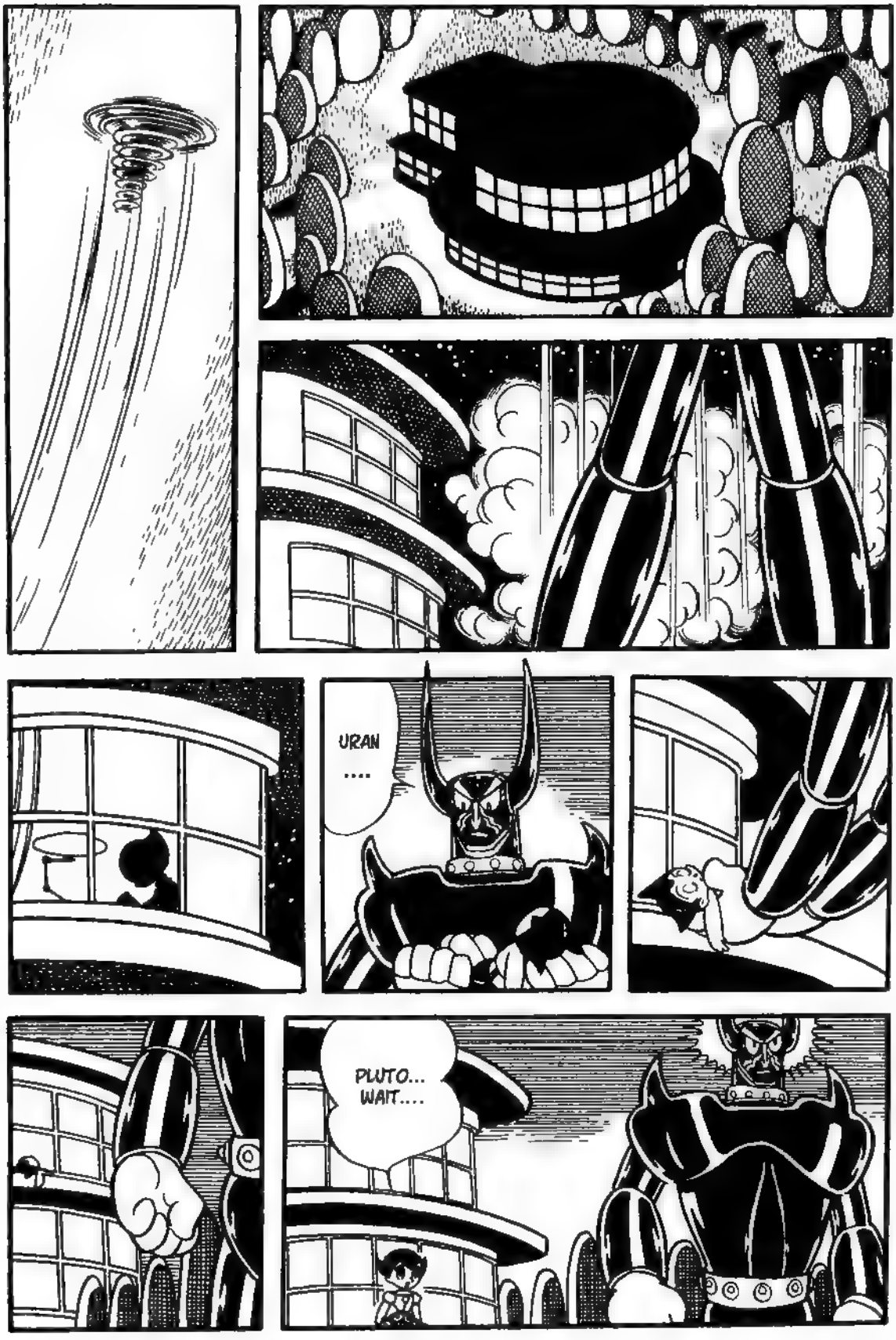
GLUB GLUB BLUB
ARGHH!!!
HEY! THE SILT'S TOO DEEP HERE!
YOU'VE GOTTA PULL ME OUT, EPSILON!
EPSILON! WHERE ARE YOU?!


EPSILONNNN!
IN MANY PLACES THE OCEAN BOTTOM IS COVERED WITH SAND AND SILT THAT HAS ACCUMULATED OVER HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS. SOMETIMES THIS LAYER CAN REACH DEPTHS OF DOZENS OF FEET AND BE EXTREMELY SOFT...
.....
.....
I FEEL LIKE A COWARD...
I TRICKED PLUTO BECAUSE I KNEW I'D LOSE TO HIM IN A FAIR FIGHT...
ALL THE OTHER ROBOTS HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO FACE HIM...
...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN SUCH A COWARD...
...STILL, I MUSTN'T FORGET THE CHILDREN, WHOM I LOVE SO MUCH...

I'LL JUST LEAVE HIM THERE, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN, WHO ARE MY TRUE RESPONSIBILITY.
EPSILON! HEELLLLP!
EPSILON! GIVE... GIVE... ME... A... HAND!!
HANG ON TIGHT!
FWIP
HERE, PLUTO... GRAB ONTO THIS!!
WHOOSH

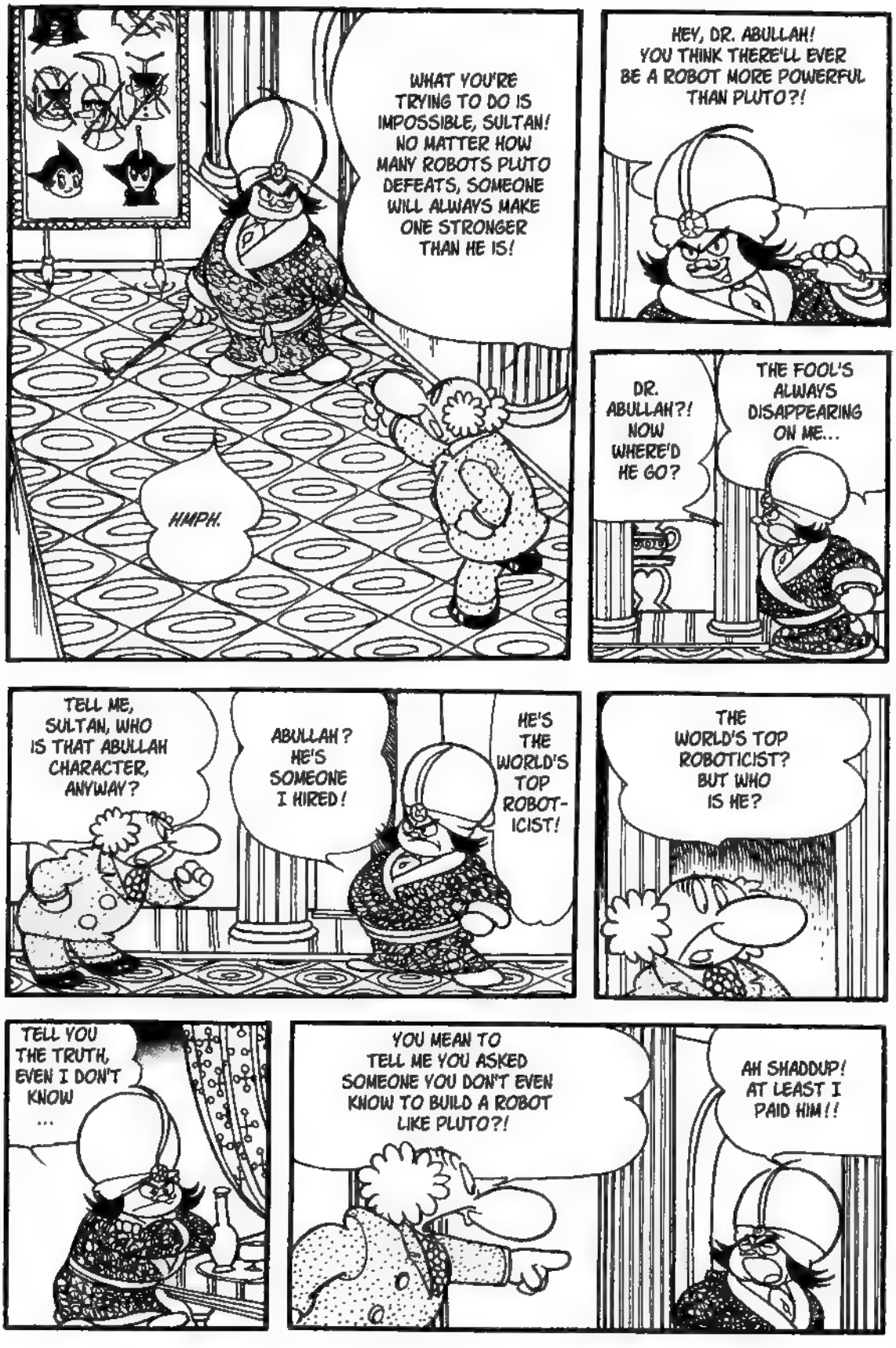

I'M GOING TO PULL YOU UP!
GLUB GLUB GLUB
WHAT AMAZING STRENGTH YOU HAVE, EPSILON!
WHERE DO YOU GET IT FROM?!

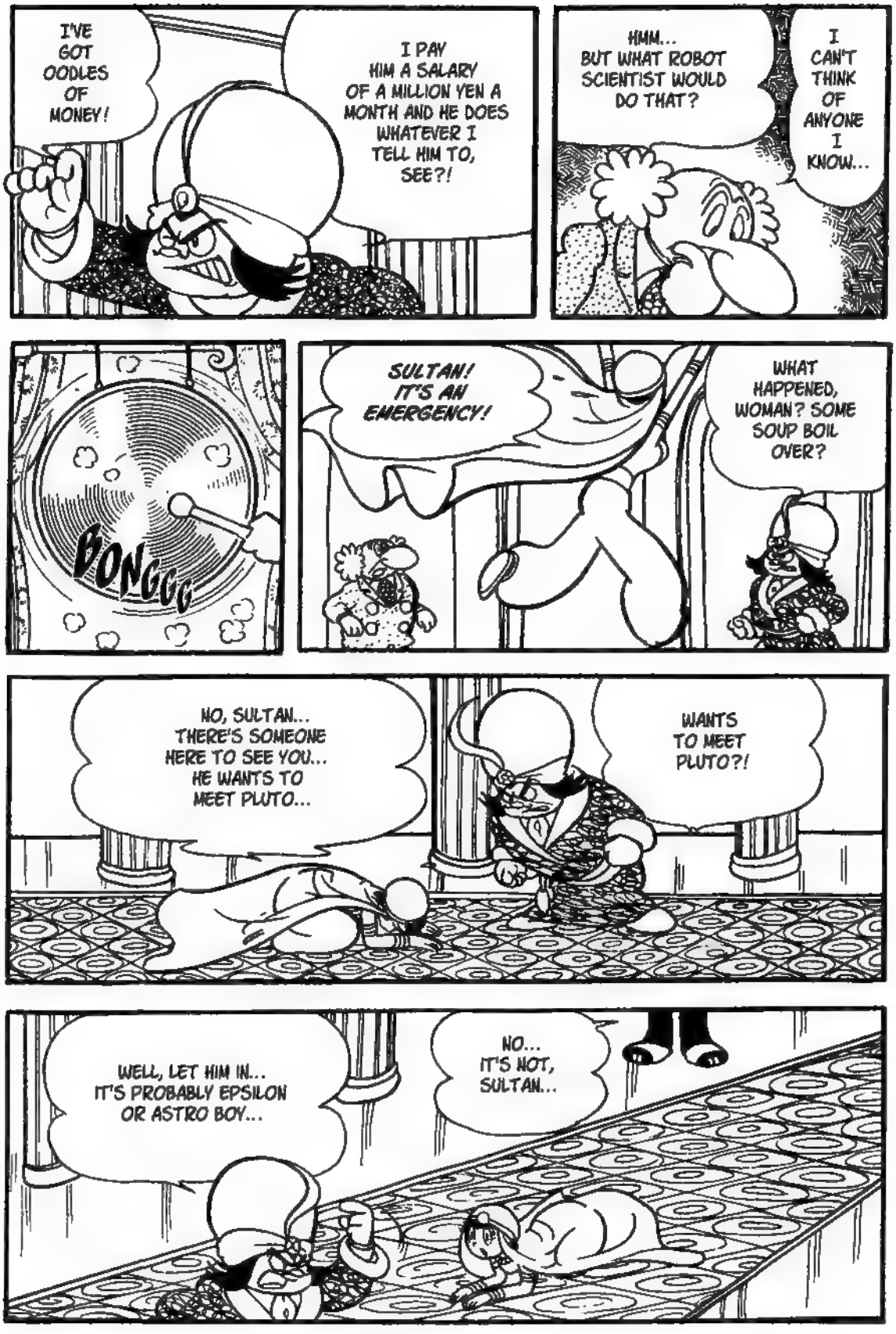
I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE AN ATOMIC ENGINE... WHAT'S YOUR SOURCE OF ENERGY?
IT'S PHOTONS... PHOTON ENERGY, PLUTO...
I'M POWERED BY LIGHT!
WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, IT SAVED ME!
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS, EPSILON!
BUT A DUEL IS A DUEL...
I'M GOING BACK TO JAPAN TO RETURN ASTRO, AND THEN I'LL MEET YOU AT THE SAME SPOT IN AUSTRALIA.
HMM... A PHOTON-POWERED ROBOT COULD BE QUITE A MATCH..
HE MIGHT BE THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED...
A PHOTON-POWERED ROBOT WOULD NEVER RUN OUT OF ENERGY...
VOOOSH


URAN
....
PLUTO...
WAIT....

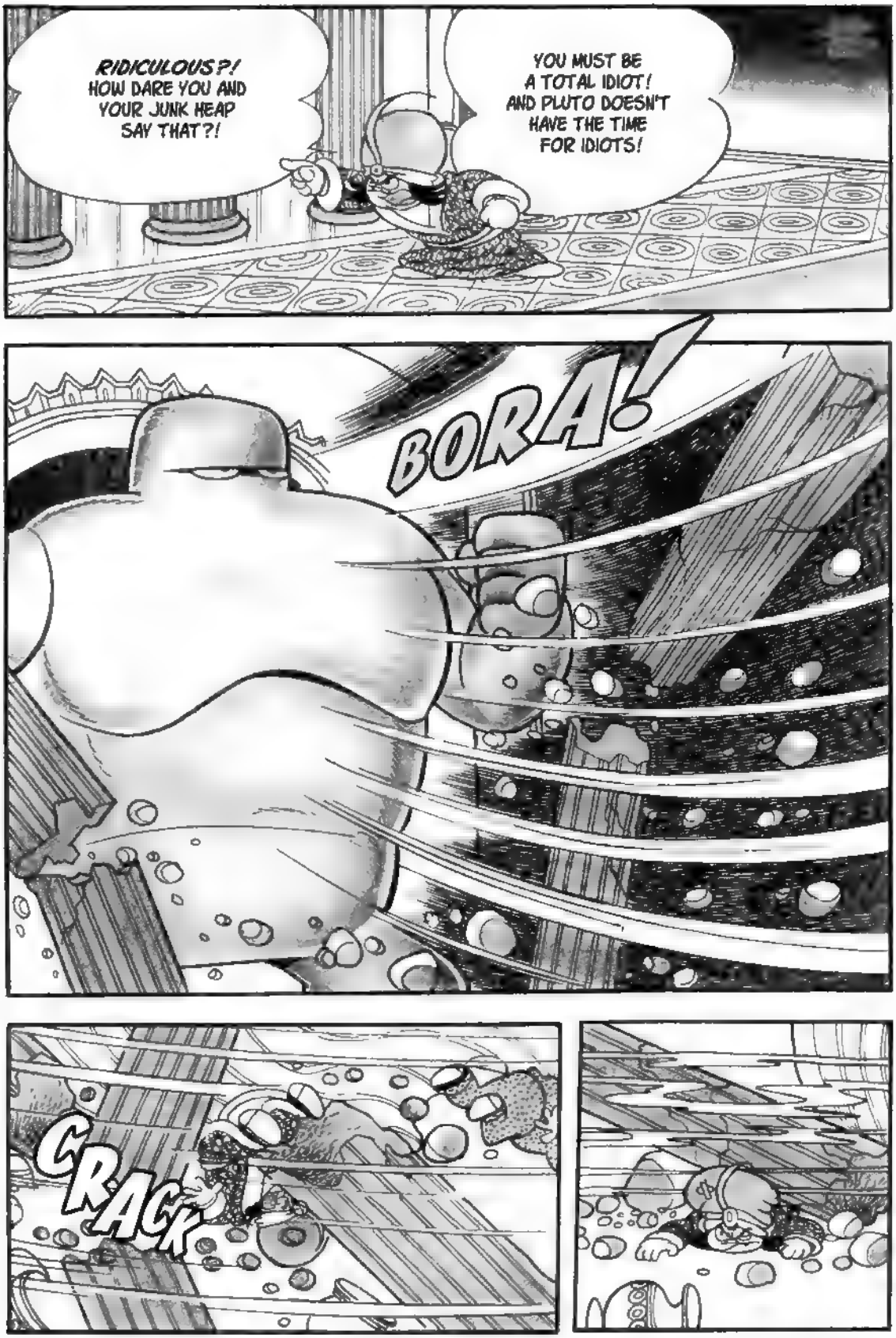
HOW COME YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?
YOU CAME HERE TO BRING ASTRO BACK TO US, RIGHT?
HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE, URAN...
ASTRO!! ASTRO!
ONE OF HIS CIRCUITS IS BROKEN, THAT'S ALL...
I'M SURE THEY CAN FIX HIM AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.
PLUTO... I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE...
I'M SORRY I SAID MEAN THINGS TO YOU BEFORE...
I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY A GOOD ROBOT. IT'S THE PERSON WHO DESIGNED YOU WHO'S BAD...
I CAN TELL YOU DON'T REALLY HATE ASTRO...
I DON'T HAVE FEELINGS LIKE LOVE OR HATE, URAN...
I'M JUST FIGHTING OTHER ROBOTS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I'M TOLD TO DO.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, PLUTO... DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL YOU FALL APART?

HANG ON A SECOND, OKAY!?
HERE YA GO!
THESE ARE SOME OF MY NUMBER-ONE-FAVORITE STICKERS!
I'M GONNA GIVE 'EM TO YOU 'CUZ YOU SAVED ASTRO...
I'LL PUT 'EM ON YOU RIGHT HERE...
I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND, PLUTO...
...SO YOU FORGET ABOUT DUELING WITH ASTRO, OKAY?!
I'M SORRY, URAN... I CANNOT PROMISE THAT...
PLUTO... YOU STUPID IDIOT!!
ONLY TWO MORE TO GO, PLUTO...
THEN YOU'LL BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROBOT! HA HA HA!


WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS IMPOSSIBLE, SULTAN! NO MATTER HOW MANY ROBOTS PLUTO DEFEATS, SOMEONE WILL ALWAYS MAKE ONE STRONGER THAN HE IS!
HMPH.
HEY, DR. ABULLAH! YOU THINK THERE'LL EVER BE A ROBOT MORE POWERFUL THAN PLUTO?!
DR. ABULLAH?! NOW WHERE'D HE GO?
THE FOOL'S ALWAYS DISAPPEARING ON ME...
TELL ME, SULTAN, WHO IS THAT ABULLAH CHARACTER, ANYWAY?
ABULLAH? HE'S SOMEONE I HIRED!
HE'S THE WORLD'S TOP ROBOT-ICIST!
THE WORLD'S TOP ROBOTICIST? BUT WHO IS HE?
TELL YOU THE TRUTH, EVEN I DON'T KNOW ...
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU ASKED SOMEONE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW TO BUILD A ROBOT LIKE PLUTO?!
AH SHADDUP! AT LEAST I PAID HIM!!

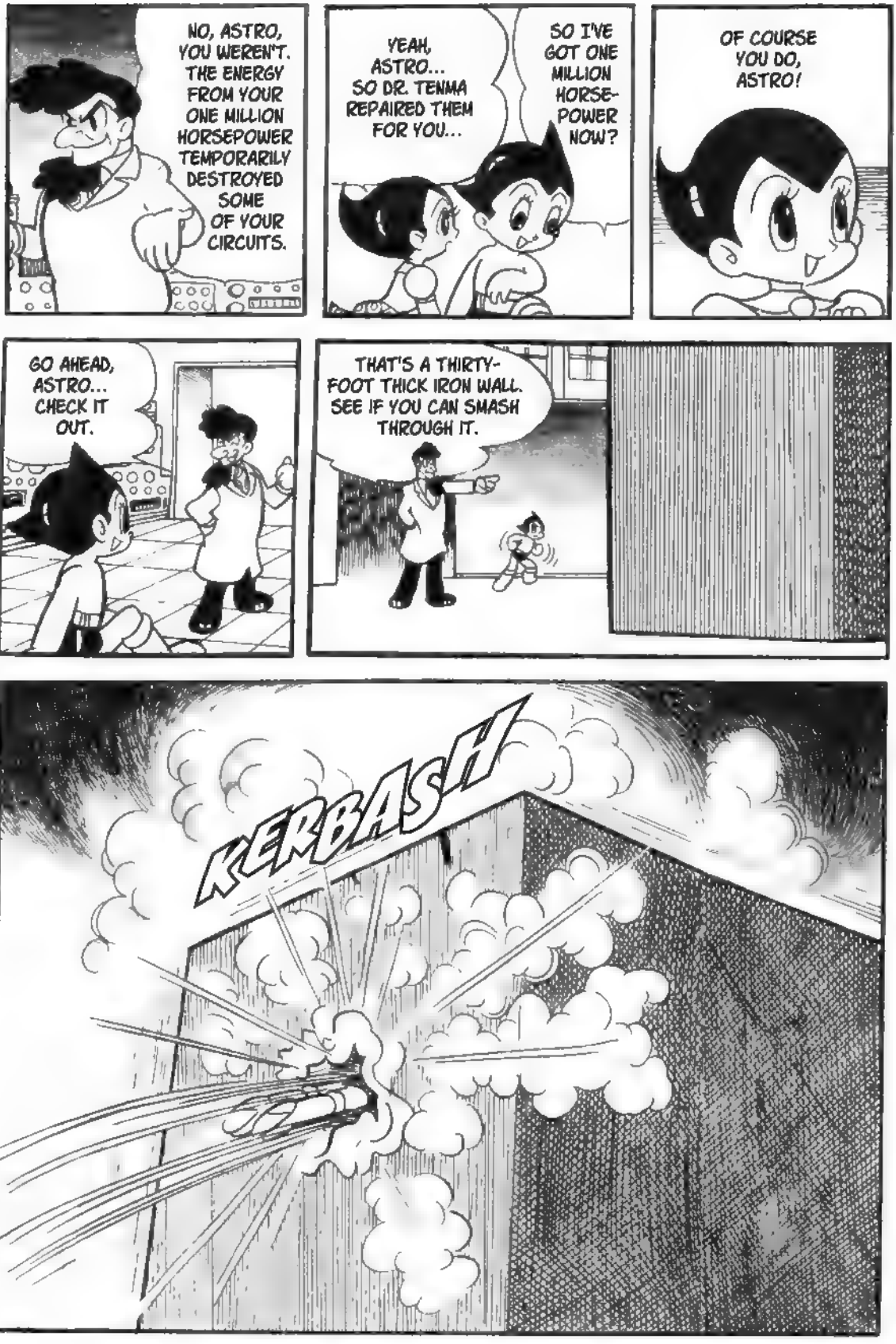

I'VE GOT OODLES OF MONEY!
I PAY HIM A SALARY OF A MILLION YEN A MONTH AND HE DOES WHATEVER I TELL HIM TO, SEE?!
HMM... BUT WHAT ROBOT SCIENTIST WOULD DO THAT?
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE I KNOW...
BONGGG
SULTAN! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
WHAT HAPPENED, WOMAN? SOME SOUP BOIL OVER?
NO, SULTAN... THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU... HE WANTS TO MEET PLUTO...
WANTS TO MEET PLUTO?!
WELL, LET HIM IN... IT'S PROBABLY EPSILON OR ASTRO BOY...
NO... IT'S NOT, SULTAN...

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM DR. GOJI, AND THIS IS BORA!
BORA?!
YES. WITH TWO MILLION HORSEPOWER, HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL ROBOT IN THE WORLD... IN ALL HISTORY, IN FACT!
TWO... TWO MILLION HORSE-POWER?!
CORRECT. AND I WANT TO ARRANGE A DUEL BETWEEN HIM AND YOUR PLUTO!
I'VE HEARD THAT PLUTO'S SPREADING LIES ABOUT BEING THE GREATEST ROBOT IN THE WORLD, AND GOING AROUND DESTROYING OTHER POWERFUL ROBOTS...
IT'S SO RIDICULOUS THAT I WANT TO ARRANGE A MATCH BETWEEN MY BORA AND YOUR ROBOT...


RIDICULOUS?! HOW DARE YOU AND YOUR JUNK HEAP SAY THAT?!
YOU MUST BE A TOTAL IDIOT! AND PLUTO DOESN'T HAVE THE TIME FOR IDIOTS!
BORA!
CRACK

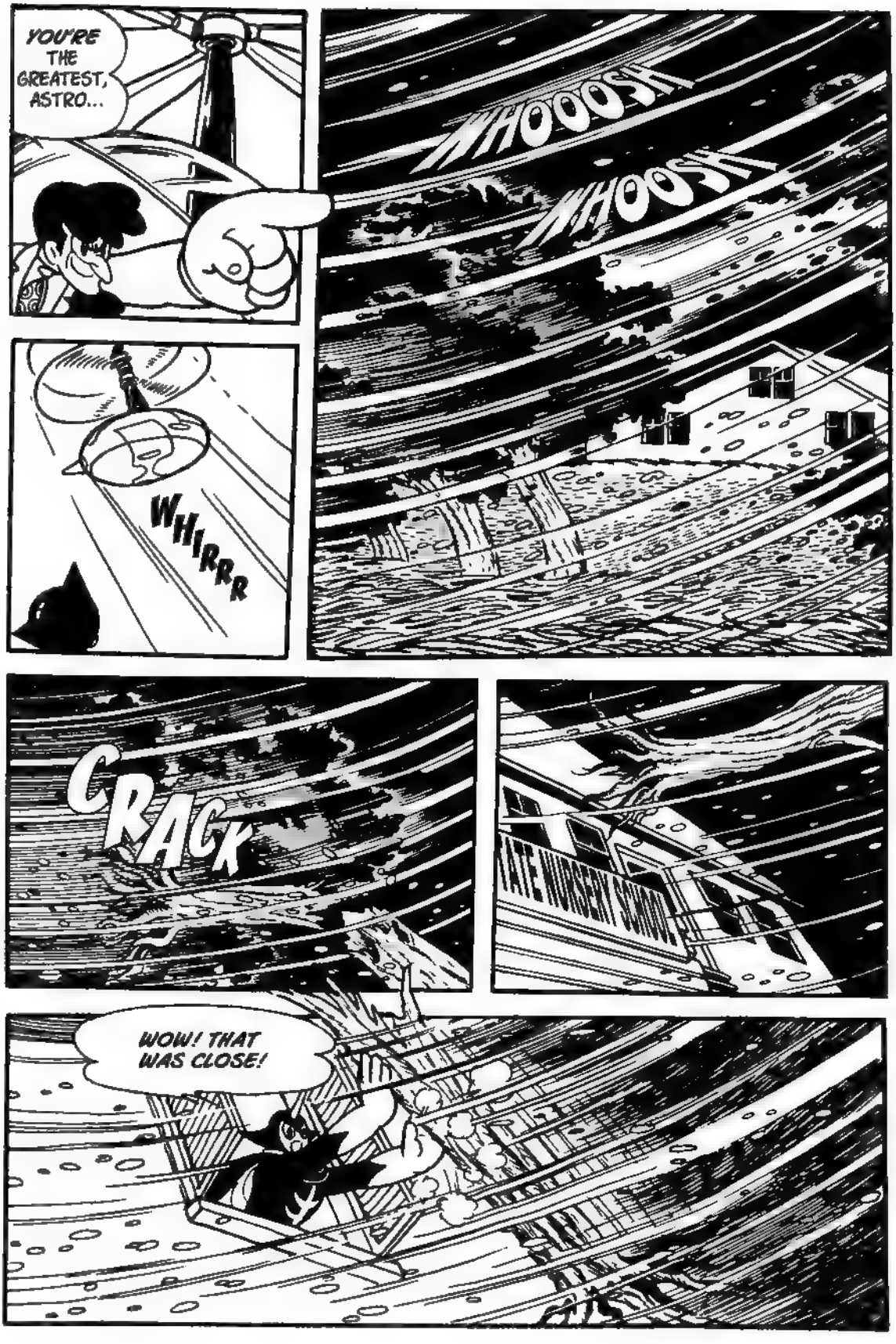
HA HA HA HA...
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AROUND BORA. HE CAN BLOW AWAY A WHOLE BUILDING JUST BY OPENING HIS MOUTH...
LISTEN! PLUTO'S NOT HERE! IF HE WAS, HE'D BE DUELING WITH YOUR FREAK ROBOT, BUT HE'S NOT, SO COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME!
VERY WELL, THEN... IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE...
...BUT IF I WERE YOU, SULTAN, I WOULDN'T GO AROUND BRAGGING ABOUT BEING THE GREATEST IN THE WORLD... FOR YOUR OWN GOOD... HA HA HA!
GRRR! I CAN'T STAND IT!
HE SAID I'M NOT THE GREAT-EST!
OF ALL THE NERVE!!
NOW I'M REALLY, REALLY ANGRY!
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
OUCH!!
LISTEN, SULTAN... YOU CAN'T LET THAT MONSTER ROBOT BECOME THE WORLD'S GREATEST...
REMEMBER WHAT I ALWAYS SAY...

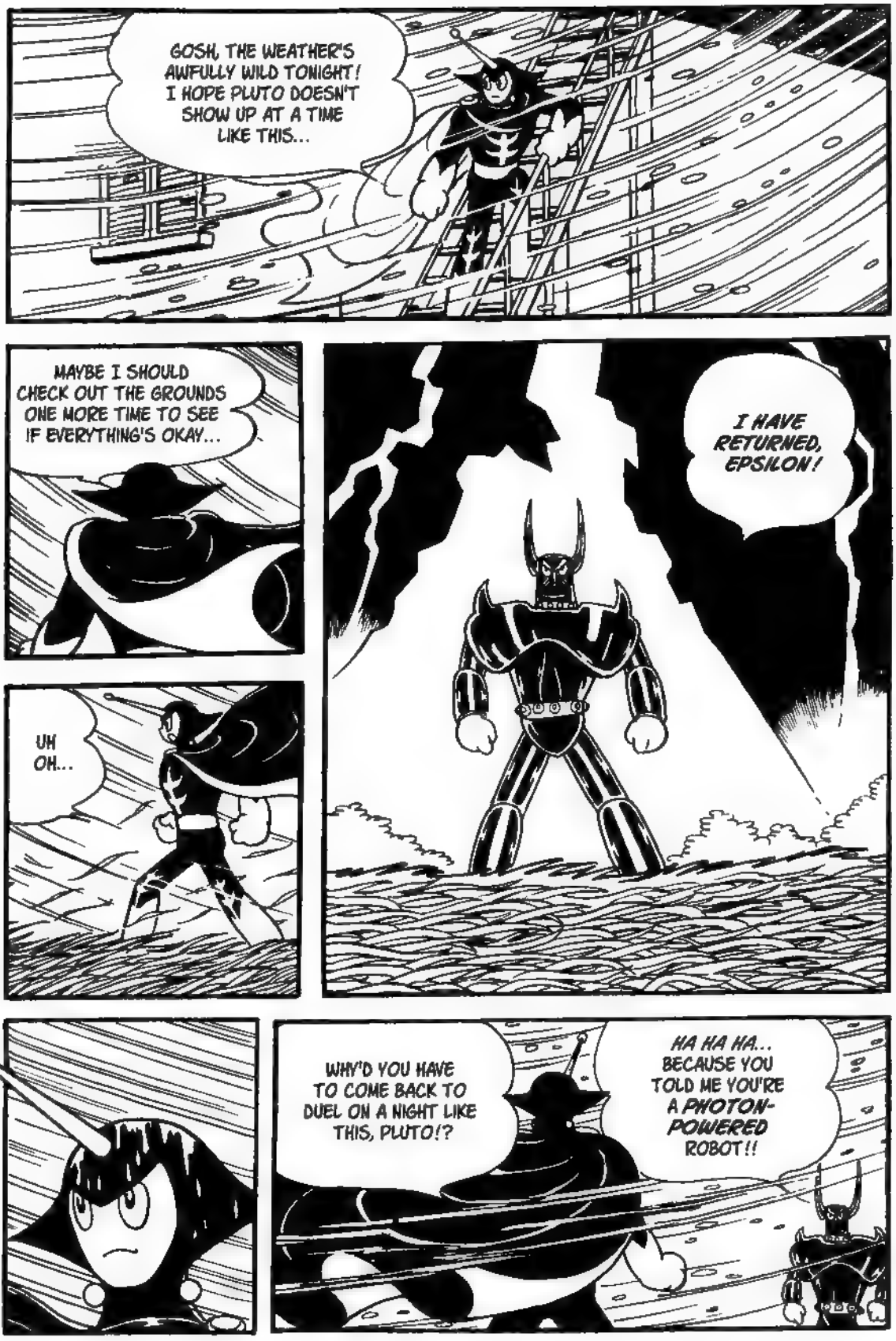
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO GO AROUND COMPARING THE STRENGTH OF ROBOTS...
THE GREATEST ROBOT IN THE WORLD IS REALLY THE ONE THAT'S SMART, DOES THE RIGHT THING, AND WORKS TO BETTER THE WORLD...
AWWSHADDDAP!
WHA?!
WELL, ASTRO... HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WELCOME BACK, ASTRO! YOUR CIRCUITS WERE WEIRD FOR AWHILE THERE!
YOU MEAN I WASN'T WORKING RIGHT?


NO, ASTRO, YOU WEREN'T. THE ENERGY FROM YOUR ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER TEMPORARILY DESTROYED SOME OF YOUR CIRCUITS.
YEAH, ASTRO... SO DR. TENMA REPAIRED THEM FOR YOU...
SO I'VE GOT ONE MILLION HORSE-POWER NOW?
OF COURSE YOU DO, ASTRO!
GO AHEAD, ASTRO... CHECK IT OUT.
THAT'S A THIRTY-FOOT THICK IRON WALL. SEE IF YOU CAN SMASH THROUGH IT.
KERBASH!

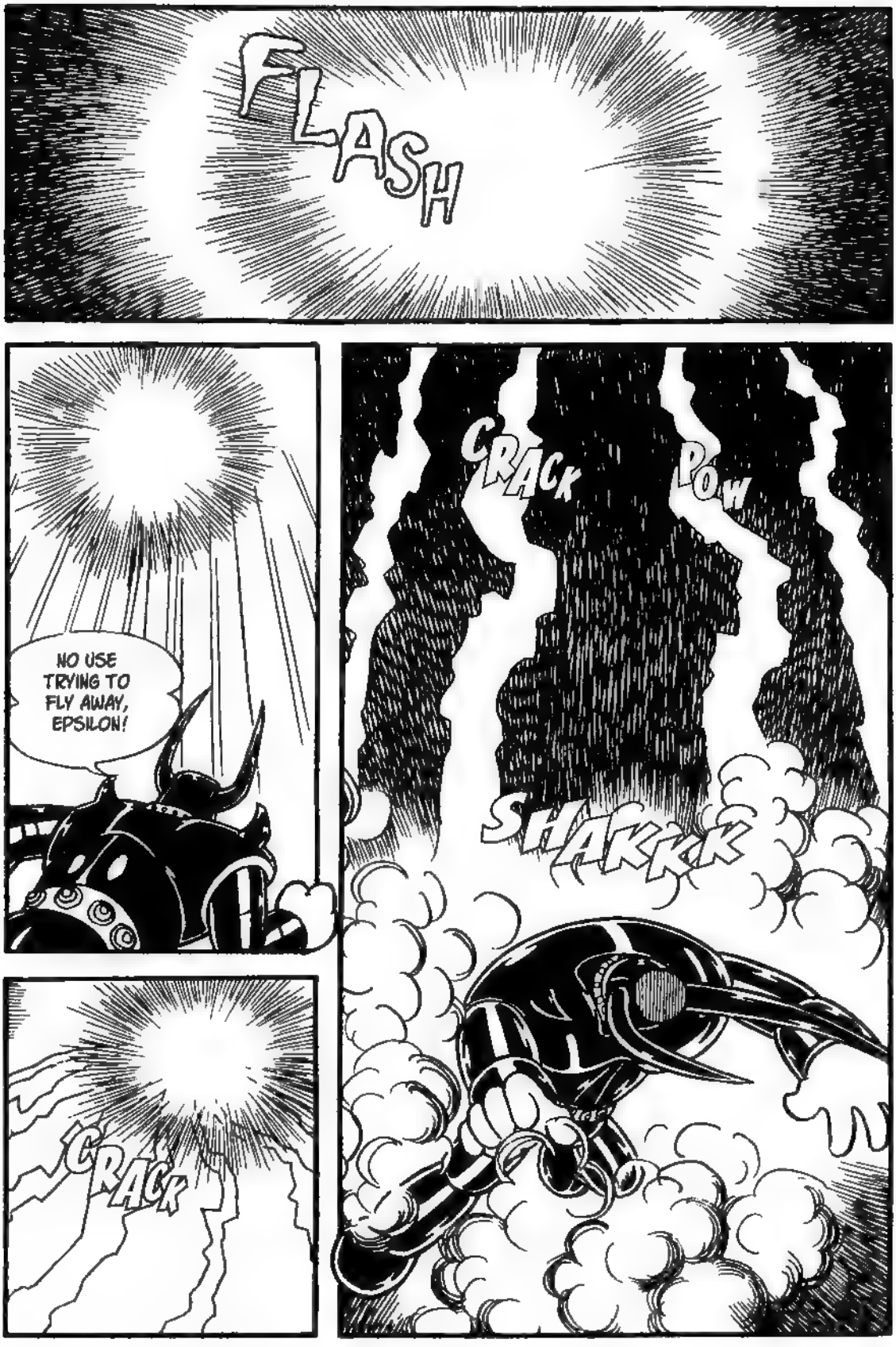
YOU'RE WORKING GREAT, ASTRO...
HEY, ASTRO... YOU SQUISHED THAT CHAIR!
CRUNCH
GOSH, THANKS FOR FIXING ME, DR. TENMA! NOW I BET I CAN BEAT PLUTO ALL RIGHT!
UM, ASTRO...
HE'LL NEVER BEAT ME IN A ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT NOW...
UM, ASTRO...
WHAT IS IT, URAN?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DESTROY PLUTO...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, URAN?!
WELL, HE DID SAVE YOU...
BUT HE JUST SAVED ME SO WE COULD DUEL AGAIN LATER, URAN! HE'S PROBABLY ON HIS WAY HERE RIGHT NOW TO FIGHT ME!

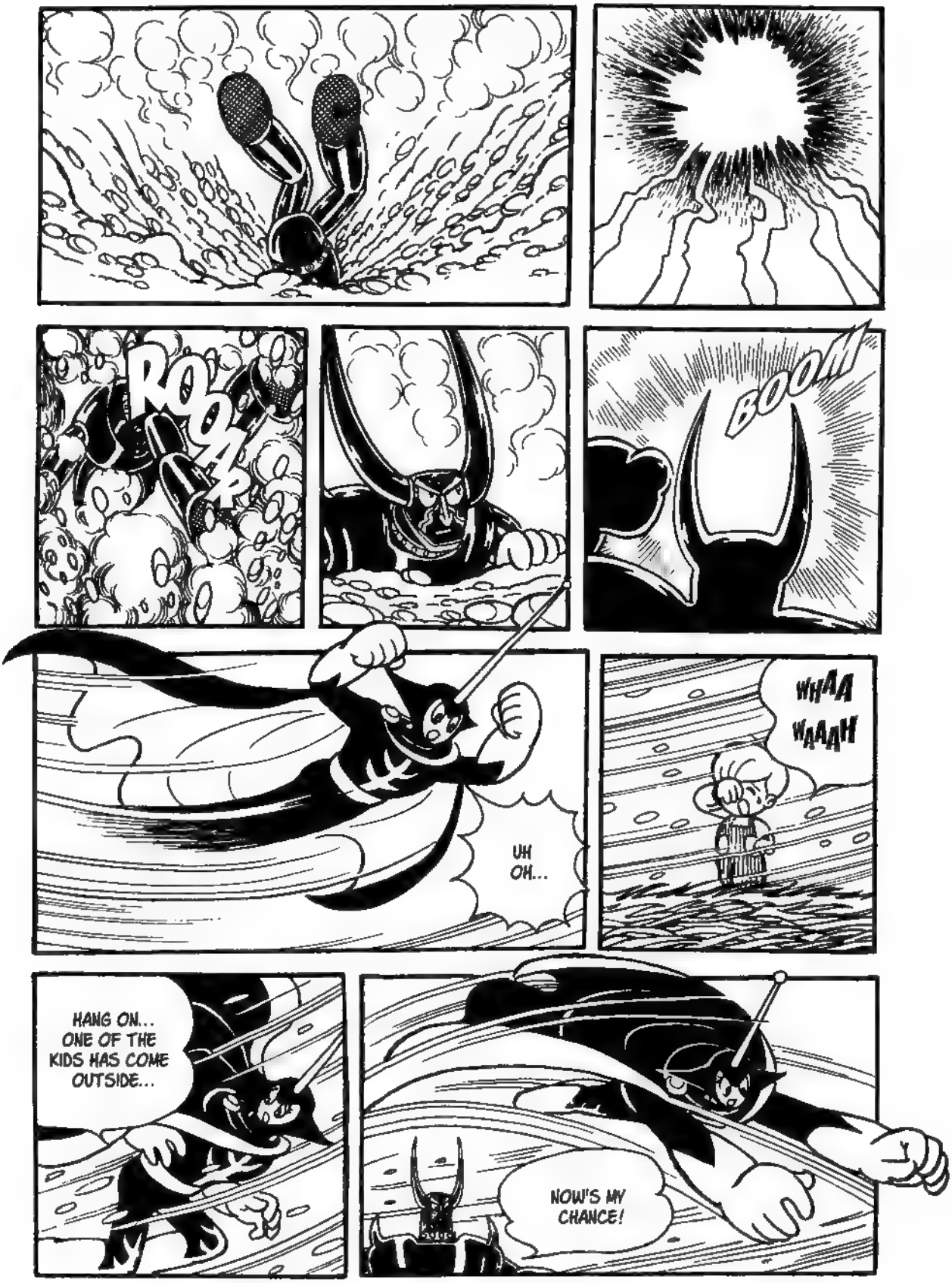
YEAH, BUT I FEEL SORRY FOR PLUTO, ASTRO... HE'S JUST GOT A BAD MASTER AND HAS TO DO AS HE'S TOLD...
HMPH... IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE SIDING WITH HIM IN ALL THIS, URAN...
BUT ASTRO...!!
HEY! I JUST FIXED YOU, ASTRO! NO SQUABBLING WITH YOUR SISTER!
MY ROLE'S FINISHED FOR NOW, ASTRO, SO I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU... BEST OF LUCK!
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING AWAY AGAIN?
I HAVE TO. I'VE RENOUNCED THE WORLD NOW, AND I CAN'T STAY AROUND HERE LONG...
ONE LAST WORD OF ADVICE THOUGH, ASTRO...
PLUTO CALLS HIMSELF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROBOT...
...BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? HE'S REALLY NOT!

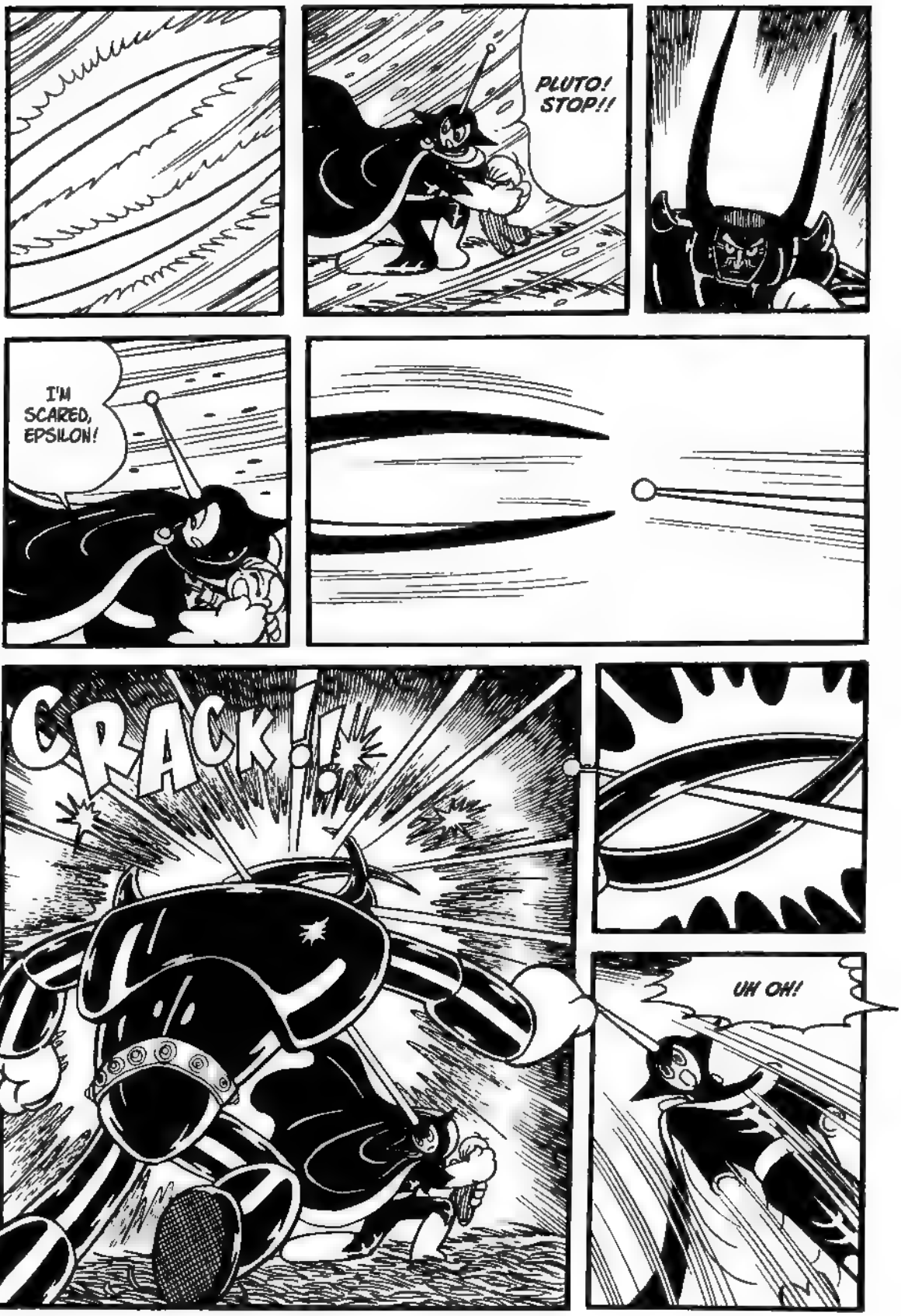

YOU'RE THE GREATEST, ASTRO...
WHOOOSH
WHOOSH
WHIRRR
CRACK
WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE!


GOSH, THE WEATHER'S AWFULLY WILD TONIGHT! I HOPE PLUTO DOESN'T SHOW UP AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK OUT THE GROUNDS ONE MORE TIME TO SEE IF EVERYTHING'S OKAY...
I HAVE RETURNED, EPSILON!
UH OH...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO COME BACK TO DUEL ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS, PLUTO!?
HA HA HA... BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME YOU'RE A PHOTON-POWERED ROBOT!!

PHOTON ROBOTS ARE POWERED BY LIGHT RAYS, AND MOST OF THEM COME FROM THE SUN!
YOUR ENERGY'S NEARLY LIMITLESS AS A RESULT, BUT THE SUN HAS TO BE SHINING!!
I CHOSE TO DUEL WITH YOU AT NIGHT WHEN YOU CAN'T REPLENISH YOUR ENERGY!
SO HERE I COME, EPSILON!
SHAKK

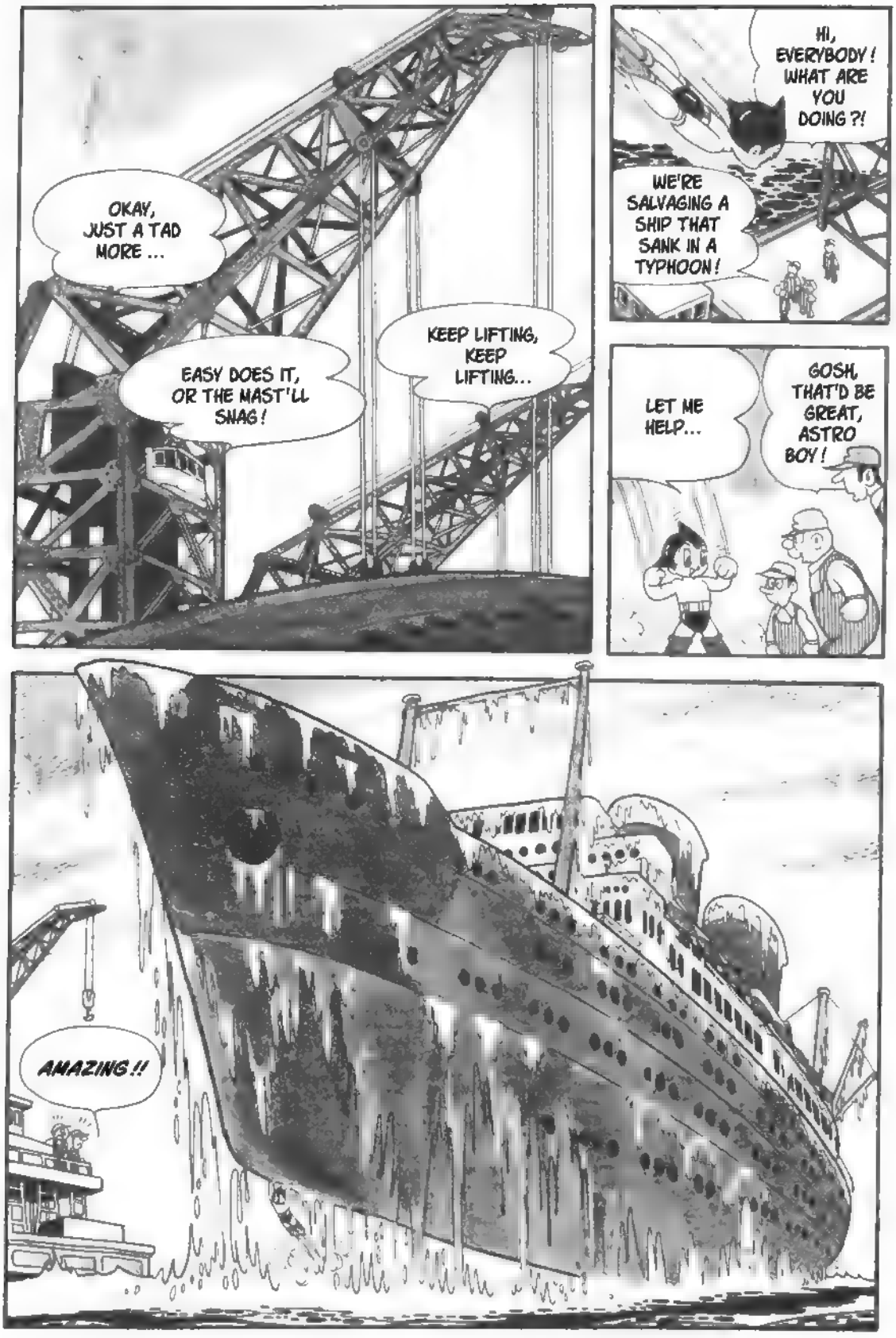

FLASH
NO USE TRYING TO FLY AWAY, EPSILON!
CRACK
POW
SHAKKK
CRACK


ROAR
BOOM
UH OH...
WHAA WAAAH
HANG ON... ONE OF THE KIDS HAS COME OUTSIDE...
NOW'S MY CHANCE!


PLUTO! STOP!!
I'M SCARED, EPSILON!
CRACK!!
UH OH!

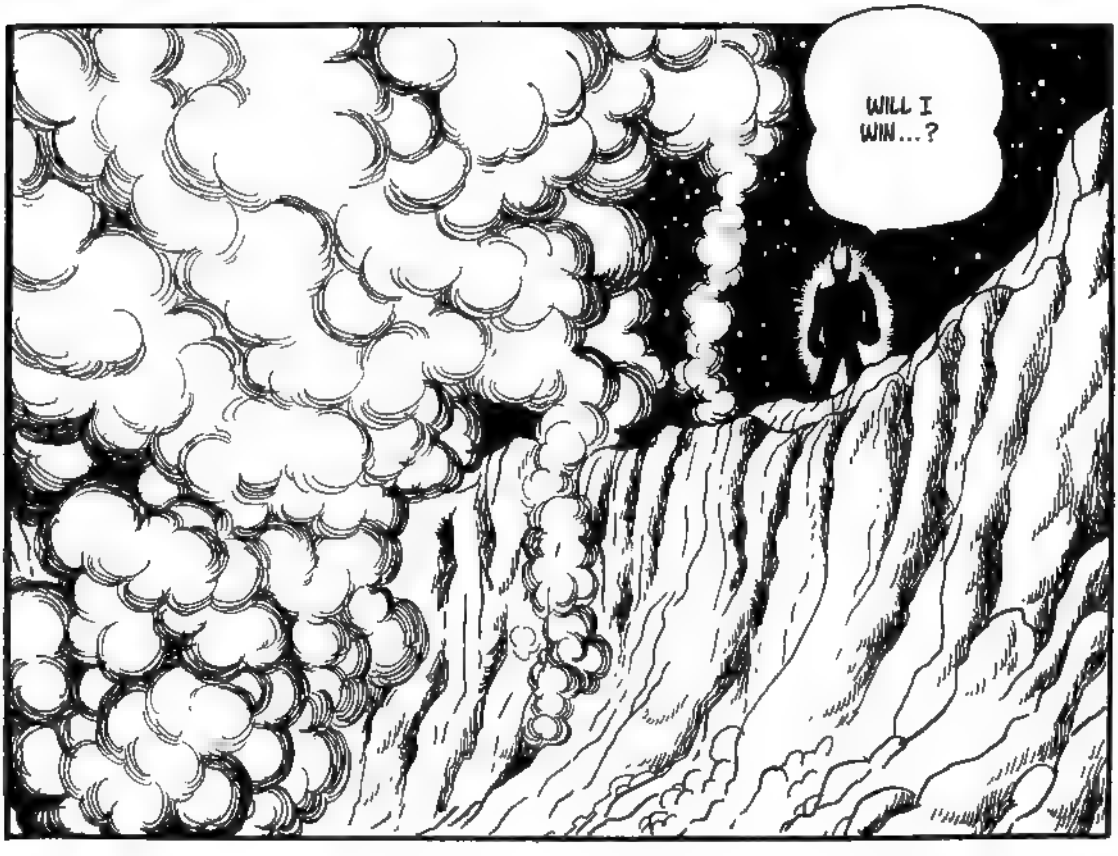
MY ENERGY...
ZAAP ZAAAP ZAP
WAH WAH
HELP!
THAT MAKES
SIX!
WAH WAH WAH

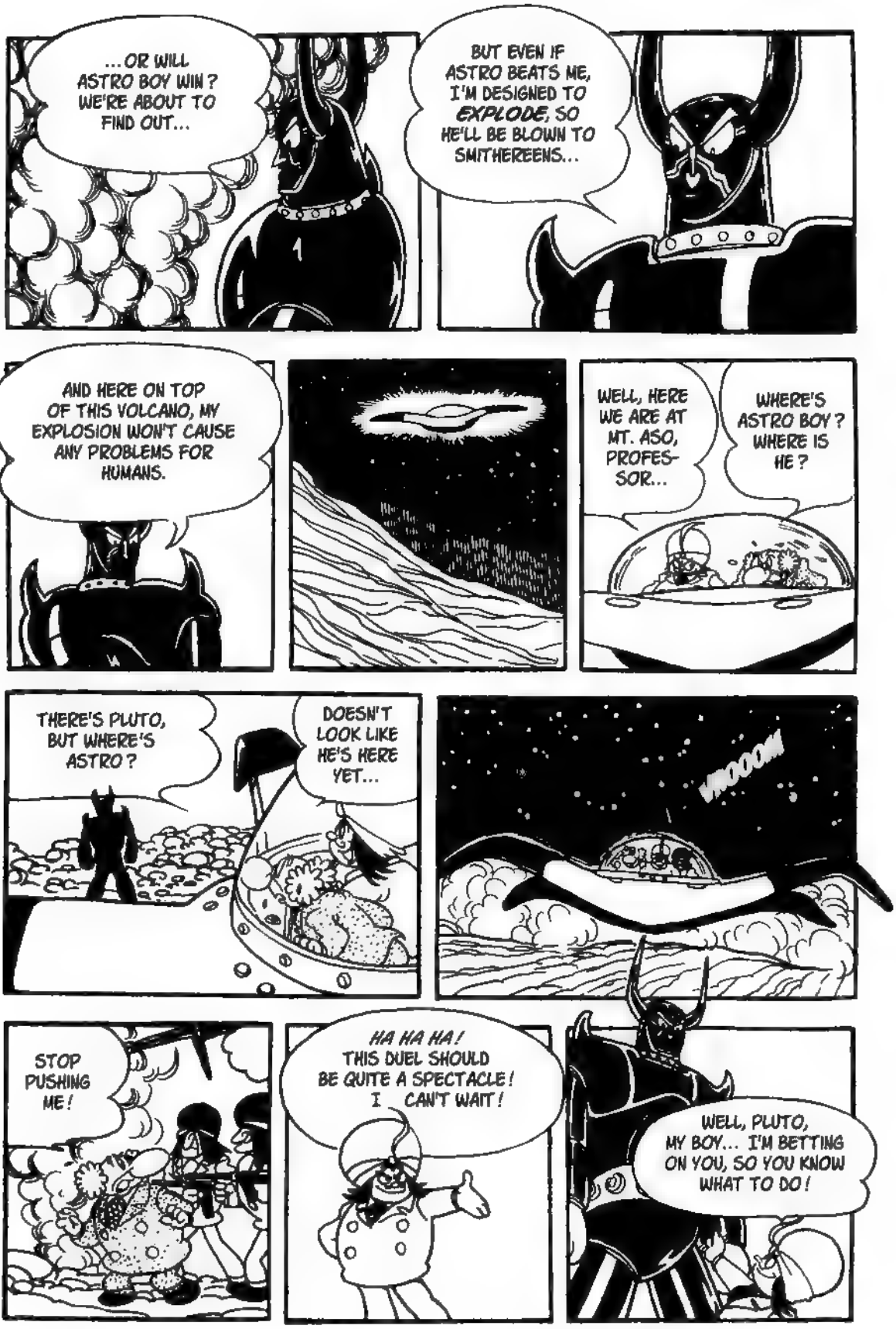
WAH
WAH
WAH
HEH HEH HEH.
YOUR TIME'S ABOUT
TO COME, PLUTO...
.....

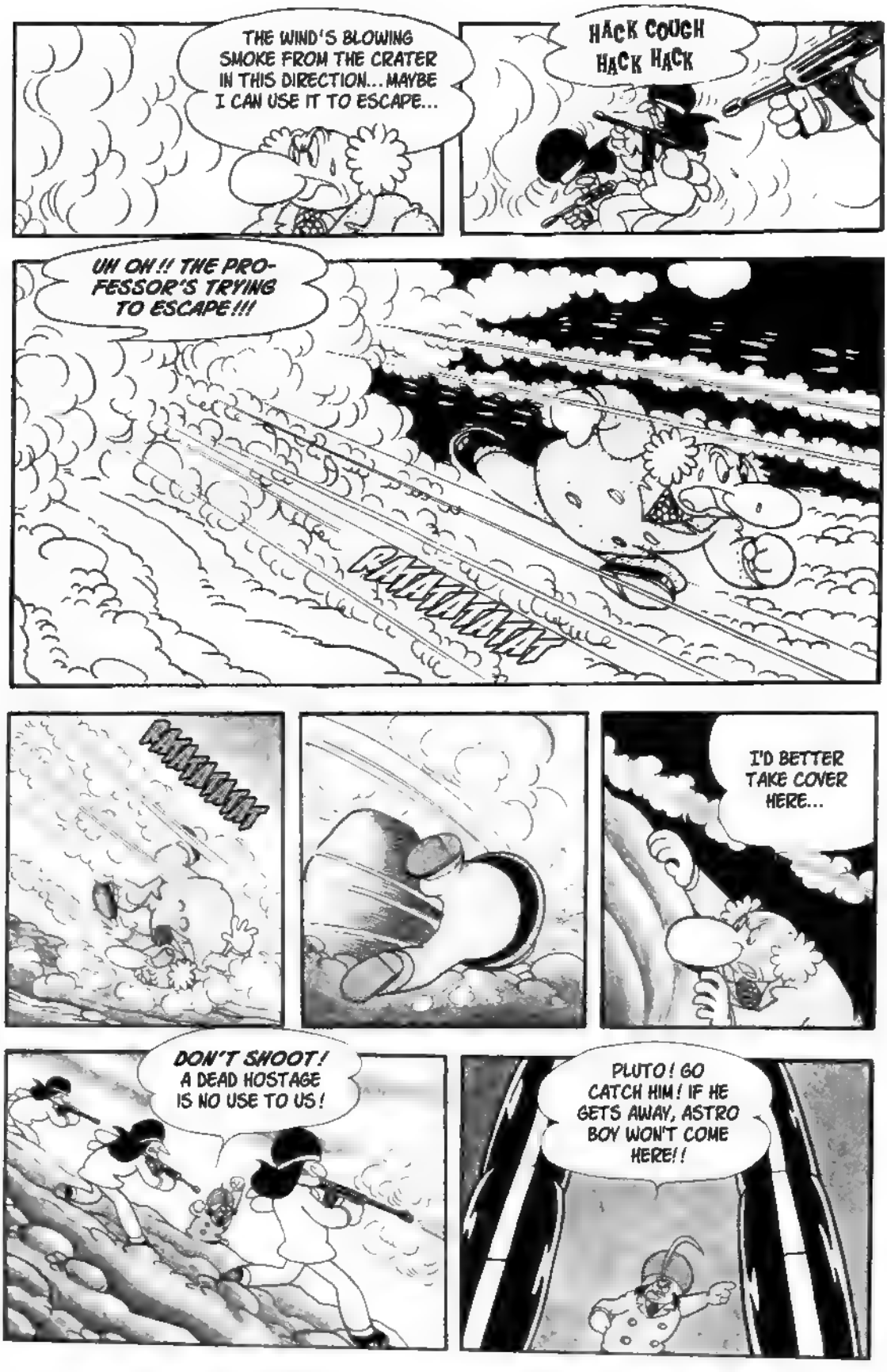

OKAY, JUST A TAD MORE ...
EASY DOES IT, OR THE MAST'LL SNAG!
KEEP LIFTING, KEEP LIFTING...
HI, EVERYBODY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WE'RE SALVAGING A SHIP THAT SANK IN A TYPHOON!
LET ME HELP...
GOSH, THAT'D BE GREAT, ASTRO BOY!
AMAZING!!

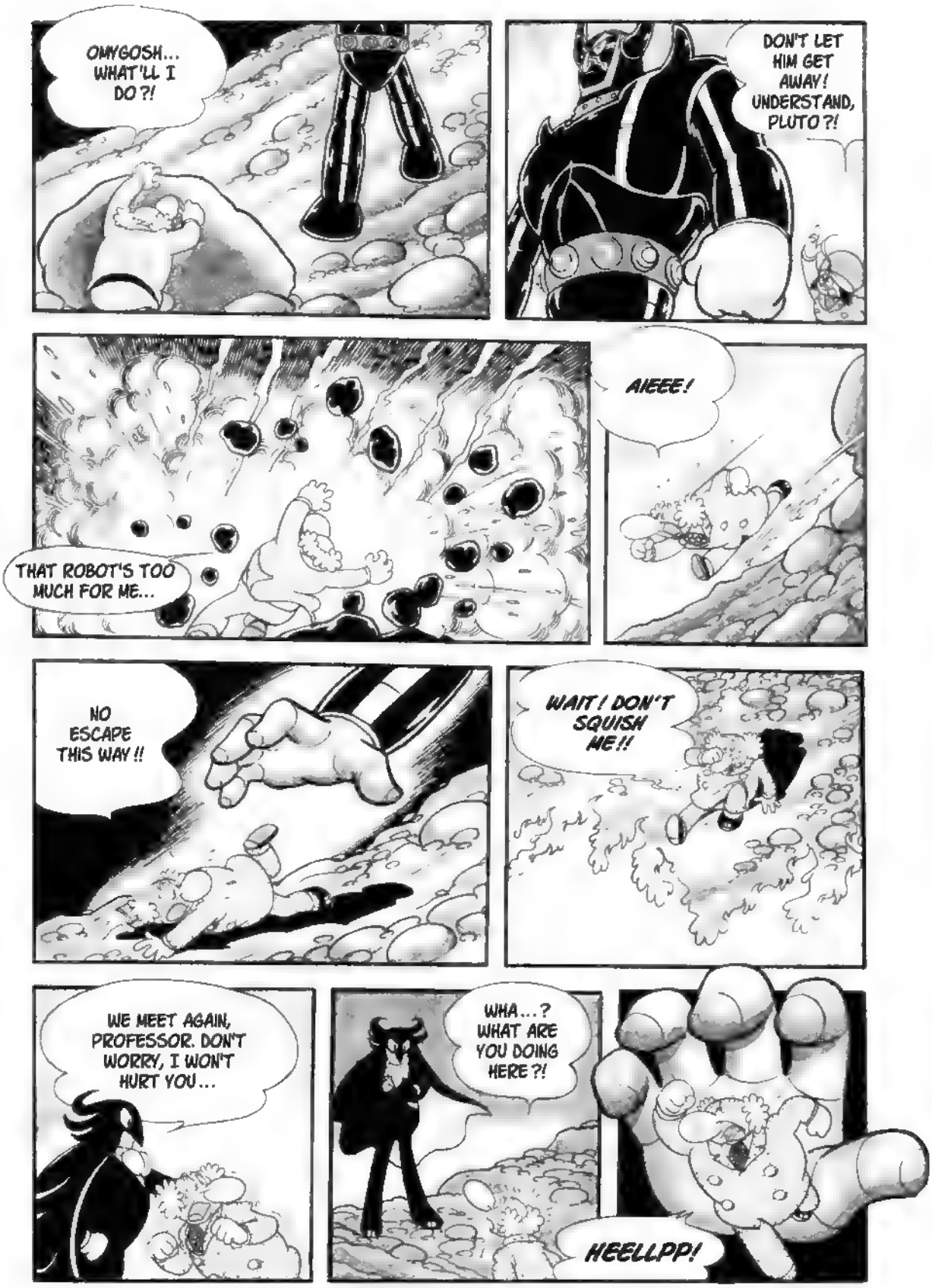
LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP AGAIN!
WOW! THANKS A LOT, ASTRO BOY!
ASTRO BOY'S GOT AN AWFUL LOT OF ENERGY THESE DAYS...
YEAH, WITH A LITTLE BODY LIKE THAT..
...AND A MILLION HORSEPOWER...
...HE'S TURNED INTO A REAL MONSTER...
.....
.....
THEY CALLED ME A MONSTER...
HEY, ASTRO! YOU GOT A TELEGRAM!
UH OH! IT'S FROM SULTAN!
To Astro boy:
Pluto will be waiting for you tonight on the top of Mt. Aso. let the duel take place there. if you try to run away, it'll be the end of Ochanomizu..
THAT RAT, PLUTO! WELL, DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GONNA RUN AWAY...
YOU'RE REALLY GOING ?!
OF COURSE I AM. TO THE TOP OF MT. ASO...

MT. ASO, AN ACTIVE VOLCANO WITH THE WORLD'S LARGEST CRATER...


WILL I WIN...?


...OR WILL ASTRO BOY WIN? WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT...
BUT EVEN IF ASTRO BEATS ME, I'M DESIGNED TO EXPLODE, SO HE'LL BE BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS...
AND HERE ON TOP OF THIS VOLCANO, MY EXPLOSION WON'T CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR HUMANS.
WELL, HERE WE ARE AT MT. ASO, PROFESSOR...
WHERE'S ASTRO BOY? WHERE IS HE?
THERE'S PLUTO, BUT WHERE'S ASTRO?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S HERE YET...
VROOOOM
STOP PUSHING ME!
HA HA HA! THIS DUEL SHOULD BE QUITE A SPECTACLE! I CAN'T WAIT!
WELL, PLUTO, MY BOY... I'M BETTING ON YOU, SO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!


THE WIND'S BLOWING SMOKE FROM THE CRATER IN THIS DIRECTION... MAYBE I CAN USE IT TO ESCAPE...
HACK COUGH HACK HACK
UH OH!! THE PROFESSOR'S TRYING TO ESCAPE!!!
I'D BETTER TAKE COVER HERE...
DON'T SHOOT! A DEAD HOSTAGE IS NO USE TO US!
PLUTO! GO CATCH HIM! IF HE GETS AWAY, ASTRO BOY WON'T COME HERE!!

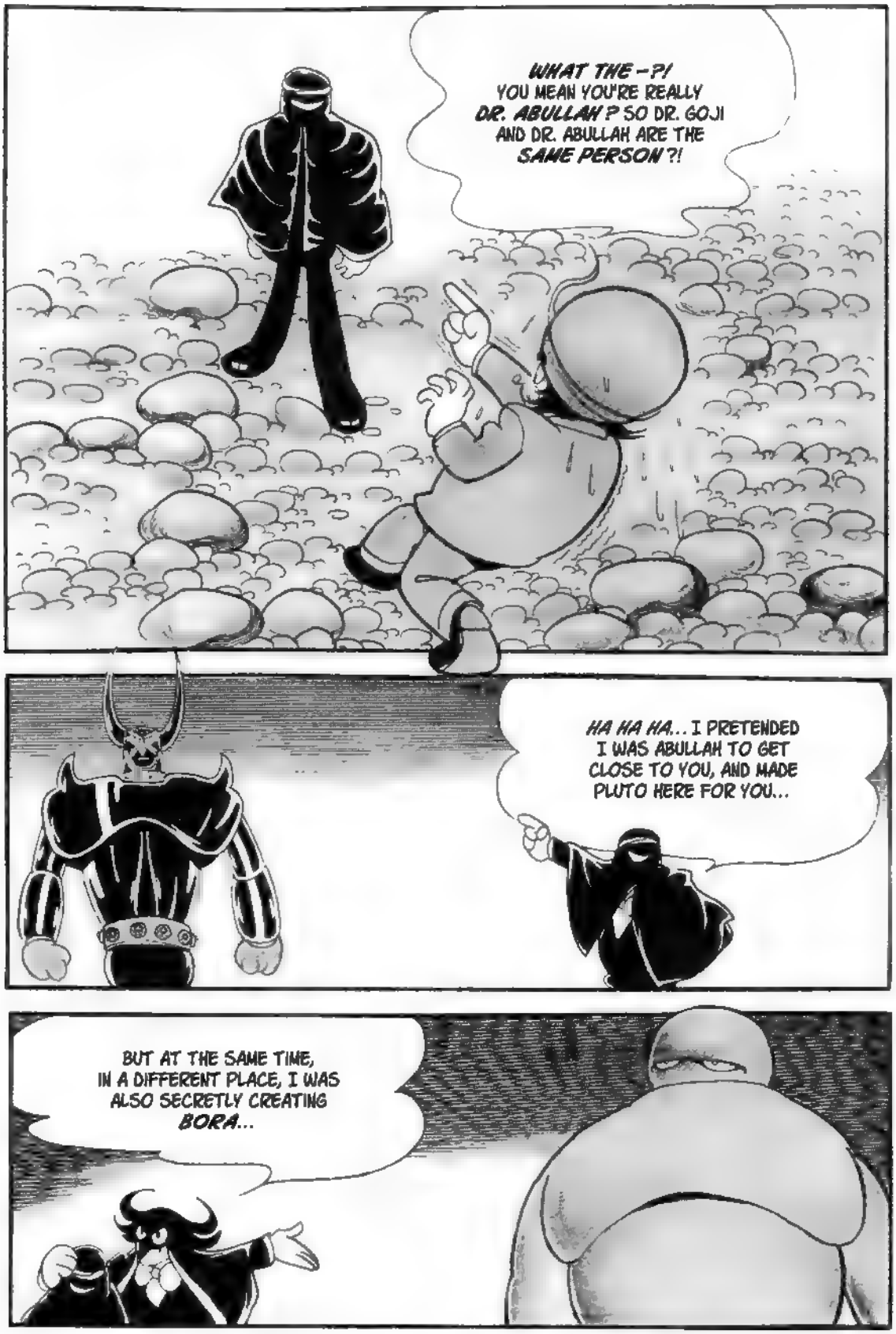

OMYGOSH... WHAT'LL I DO?!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! UNDERSTAND, PLUTO?!
THAT ROBOT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME...
AIEEE!
NO ESCAPE THIS WAY!!
WAIT! DON'T SQUISH ME!!
WE MEET AGAIN, PROFESSOR. DON'T WORRY, I WON'T HURT YOU...
WHA...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HEELLPP!

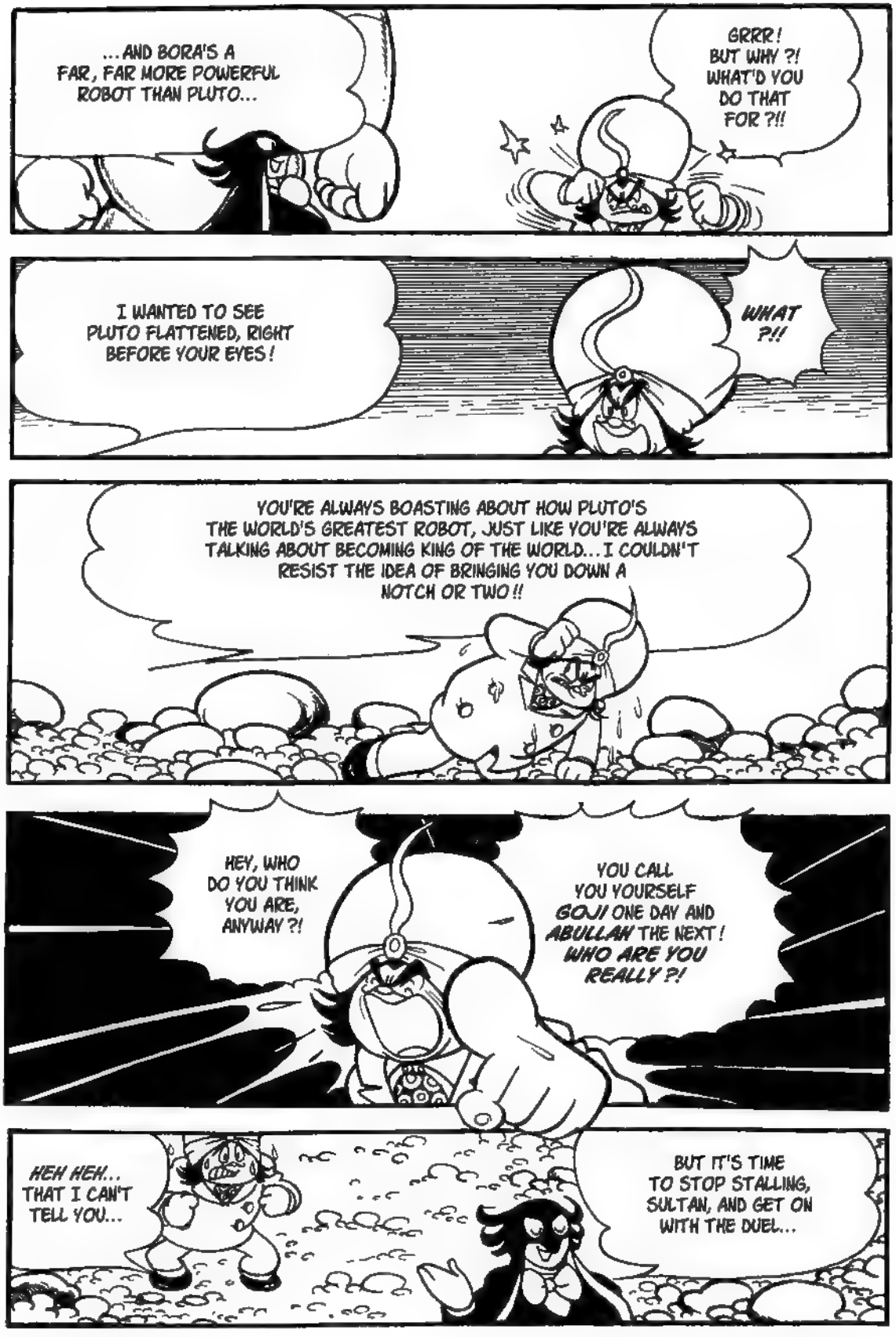
OKAY, PLUTO... IT'S TIME TO STOP AND LOOK OVER HERE! HERE'S YOUR REAL OPPONENT-- YOUR LAST ONE! HA HA HA!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN, GOJI?
ARE YOU TRYING TO BUTT IN ON PLUTO'S DUEL WITH ASTRO BOY?!
REST ASSURED, I'VE NO INTENTION OF BUTTING IN, SULTAN.

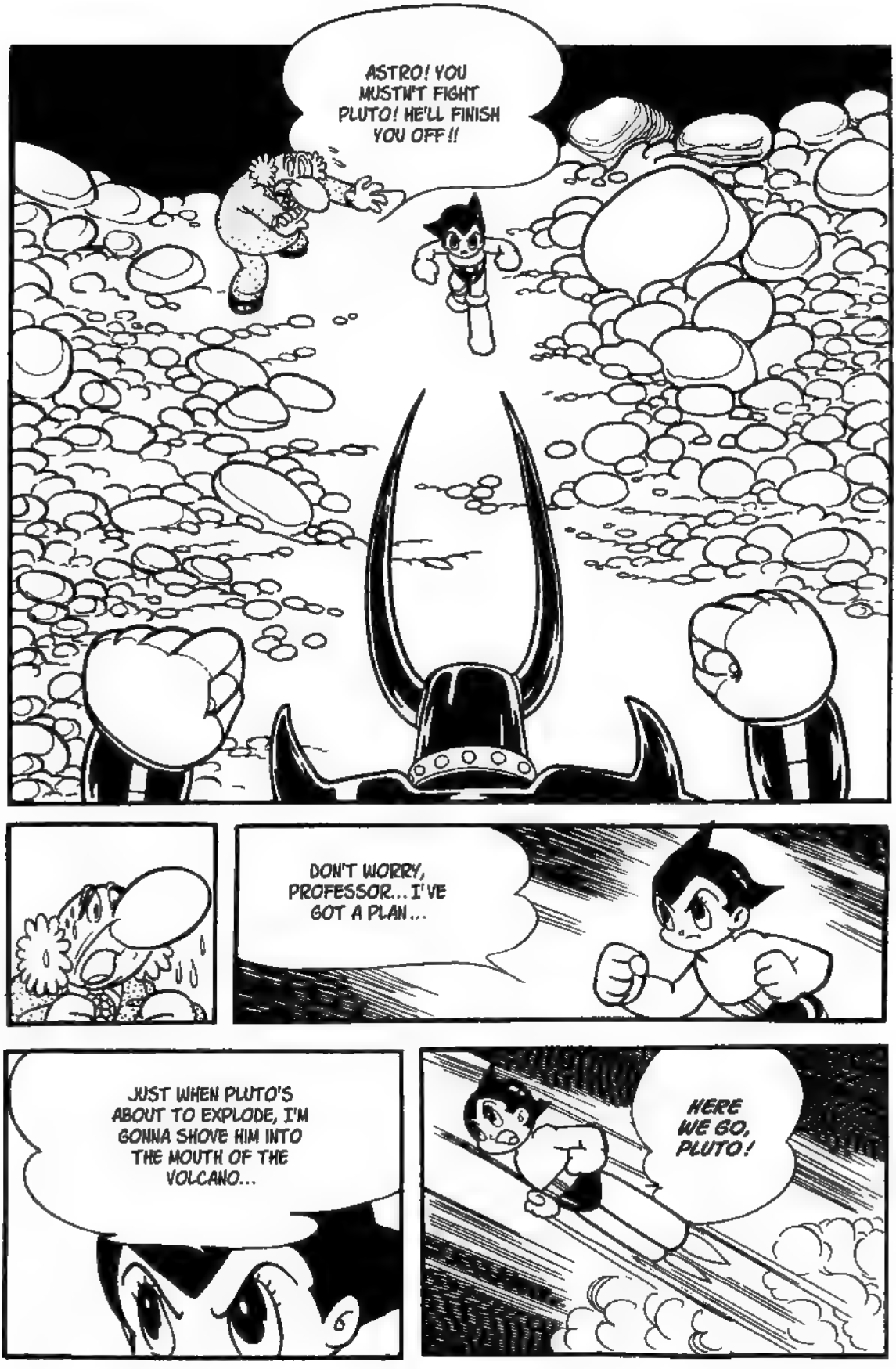
I'M MERELY HERE TO OBSERVE, THAT'S ALL.
THEN WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU ?!
WELL, IF I LEFT THE PROFESSOR AS YOUR HOSTAGE, SULTAN..
...ASTRO BOY'D BE TOO WORRIED TO GIVE HIS FULL ATTENTION TO PLUTO...
GRRR... GOJI... I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME...
LOOK! HERE COMES ASTRO BOY!
OH, NO! ASTRO ACTUALLY CAME!

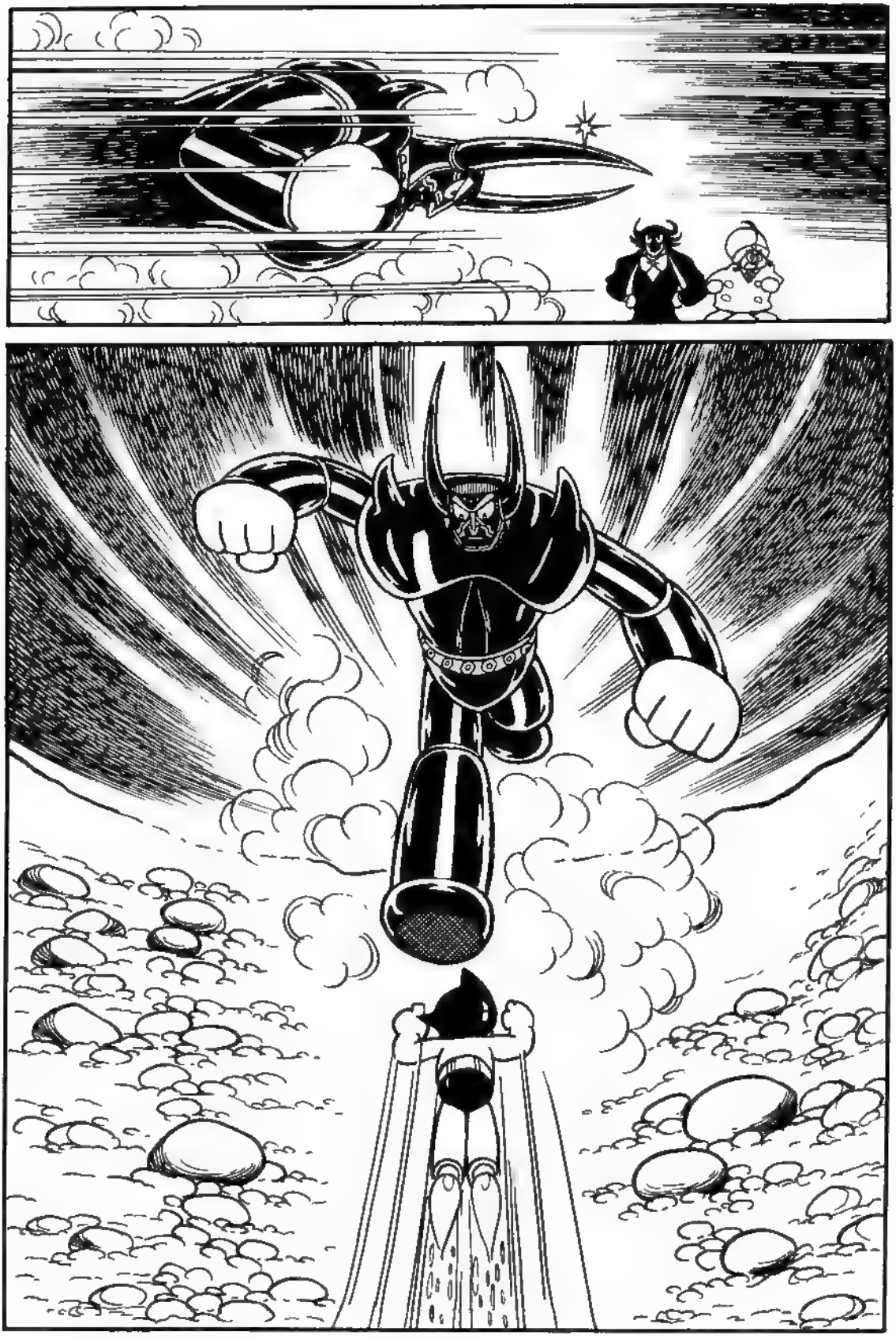
PROFESSOR!
ASTRO! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!
BUT I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
I'M OKAY, ASTRO... I'M JUST SORRY I DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS...
WHO'S THIS ROBOT, PROFESSOR?
...AH... THIS FELLOW...
HIS NAME'S BORA, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS TO TAKE ON WHOEVER WINS IN YOUR MATCH WITH PLUTO...
BORA ?!
THAT'S RIGHT, ASTRO BOY...BORA...HE'S GOING TO GO DOWN AS THE GREATEST ROBOT IN HISTORY...
AND BEFORE I FORGET, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO WARN YOU ABOUT, ASTRO...
PLUTO'S BODY IS DESIGNED TO BLOW UP IF HE LOSES...
BLOW UP ?!

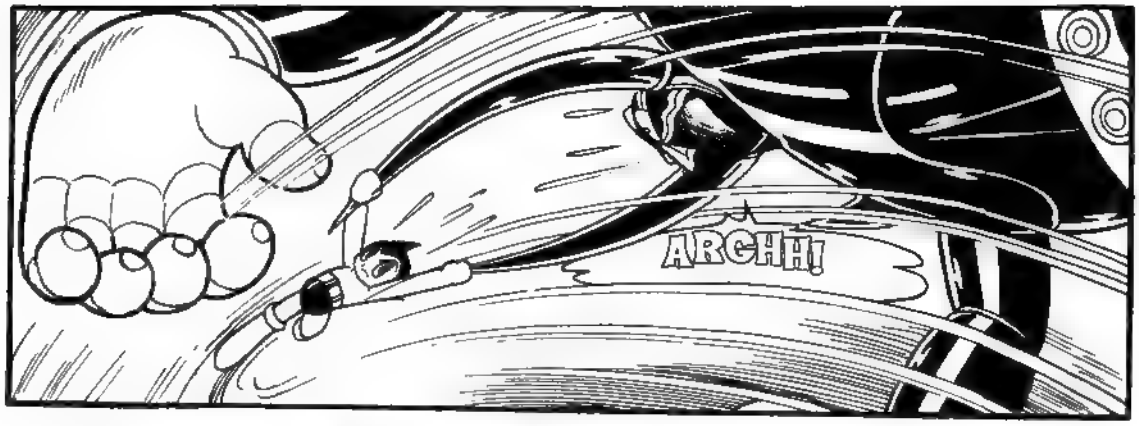
THAT'S RIGHT. DR. ABULLAH MODIFIED HIM TO EXPLODE... HEH HEH...
Y...YOU MEAN IF I BEAT PLUTO, HE'LL...
THAT'S RIGHT. THE INSTANT YOU WIN, HE'LL BLOW YOU BOTH TO SMITHEREENS.
THAT MEANS I'M DOOMED WHETHER I WIN OR LOSE!
EXACTLY. PITY, ISN'T IT, ASTRO...?
WELL I WON'T STAND FOR IT! I REFUSE TO ALLOW ASTRO TO BE DESTROYED!
WHY YOU...! HOW'D YOU KNOW PLUTO'S SECRET?!
WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION TO DR. ABULLAH, ANYWAY?!
CON-NECTION ...? HEH HEH...
HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT YET, SULTAN?


WHAT THE-?!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE REALLY DR. ABULLAH? SO DR. GOJI AND DR. ABULLAH ARE THE SAME PERSON?!
HA HA HA... I PRETENDED I WAS ABULLAH TO GET CLOSE TO YOU, AND MADE PLUTO HERE FOR YOU...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IN A DIFFERENT PLACE, I WAS ALSO SECRETLY CREATING BORA...

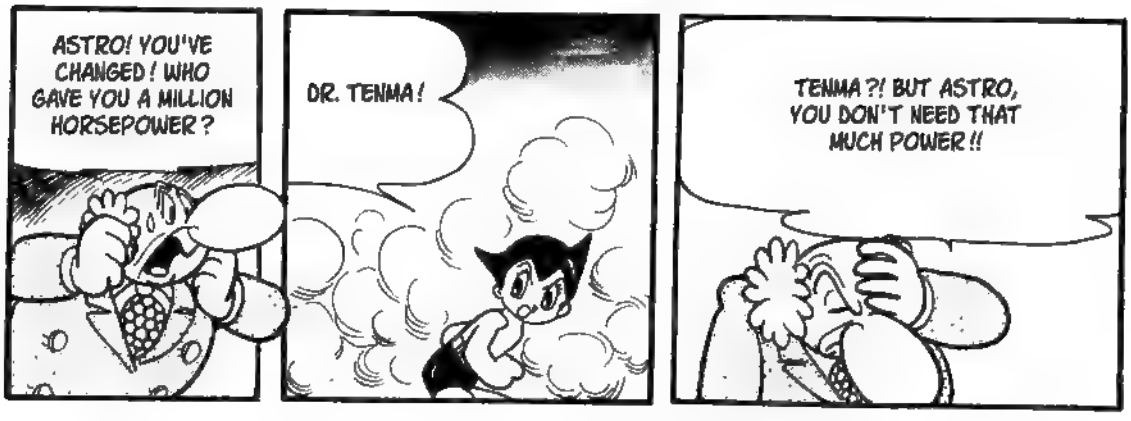

...AND BORA'S A FAR, FAR MORE POWERFUL ROBOT THAN PLUTO...
GRRR! BUT WHY ?! WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR ?!!
I WANTED TO SEE PLUTO FLATTENED, RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES!
WHAT ?!!
YOU'RE ALWAYS BOASTING ABOUT HOW PLUTO'S THE WORLD'S GREATEST ROBOT, JUST LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT BECOMING KING OF THE WORLD... I COULDN'T RESIST THE IDEA OF BRINGING YOU DOWN A NOTCH OR TWO !!
HEY, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY ?!
YOU CALL YOU YOURSELF GOJI ONE DAY AND ABULLAH THE NEXT! WHO ARE YOU REALLY ?!
HEH HEH... THAT I CAN'T TELL YOU...
BUT IT'S TIME TO STOP STALLING, SULTAN, AND GET ON WITH THE DUEL...

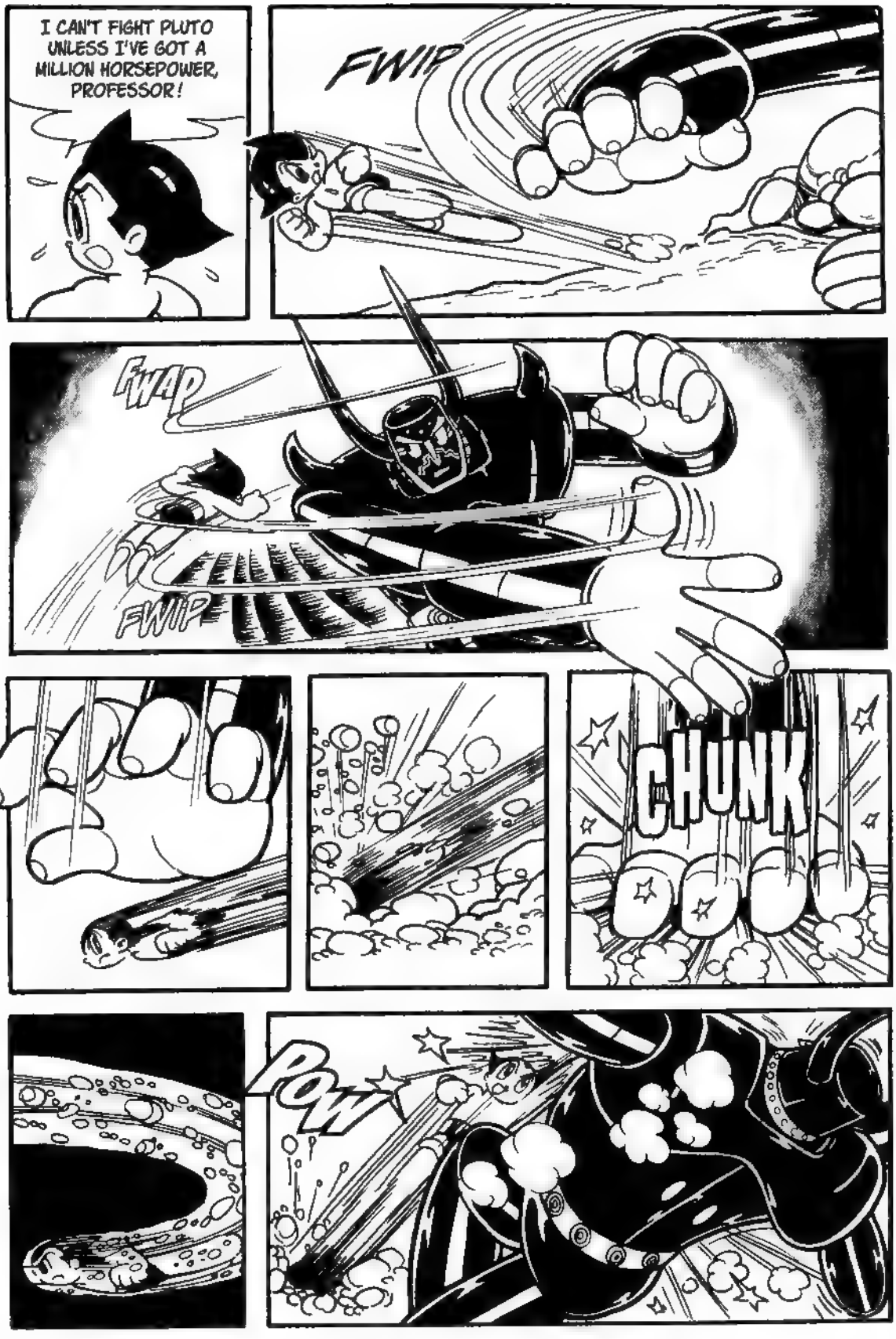

ASTRO! YOU MUSTN'T FIGHT PLUTO! HE'LL FINISH YOU OFF!!
DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR... I'VE GOT A PLAN...
JUST WHEN PLUTO'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE, I'M GONNA SHOVE HIM INTO THE MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO...
HERE WE GO, PLUTO!

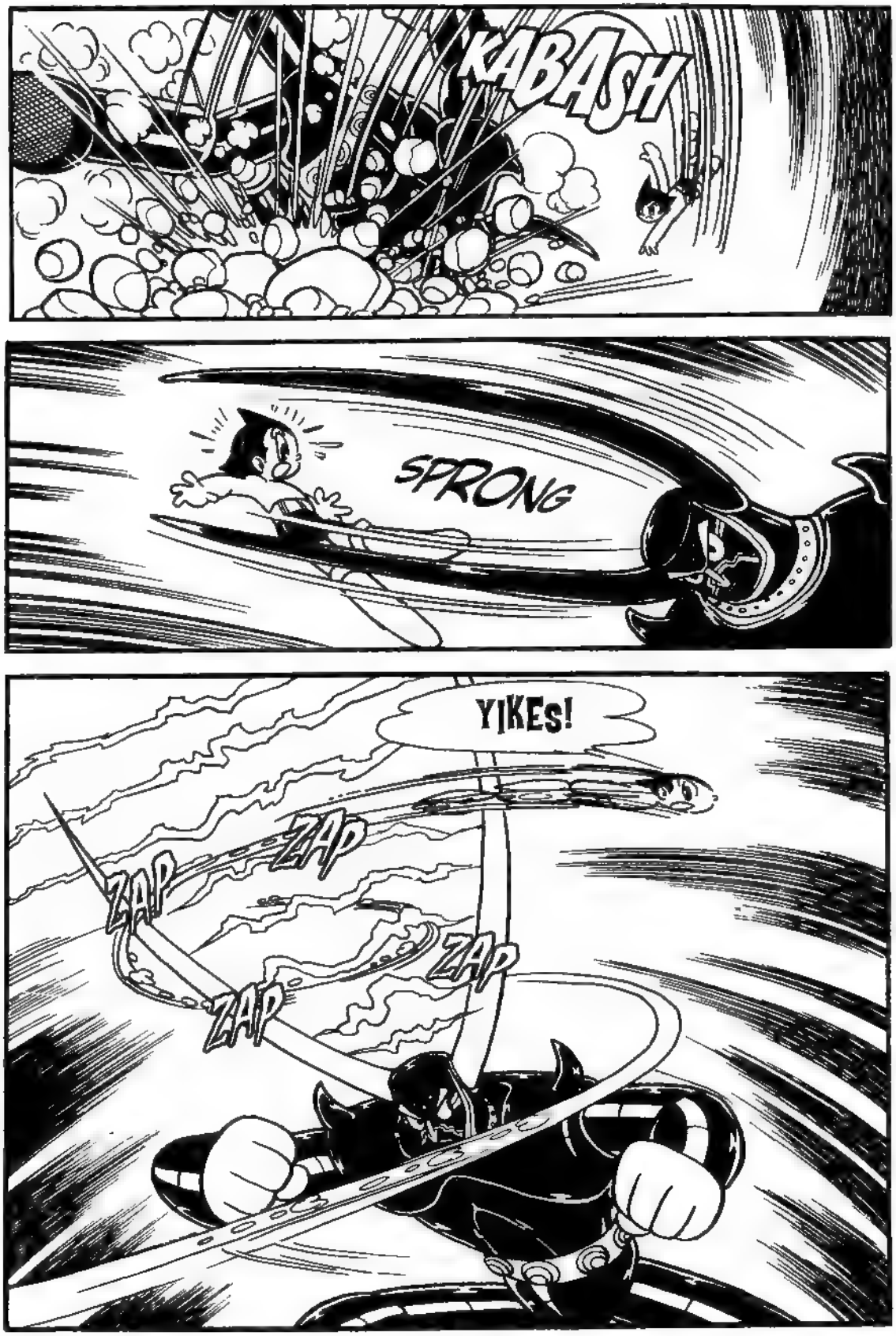


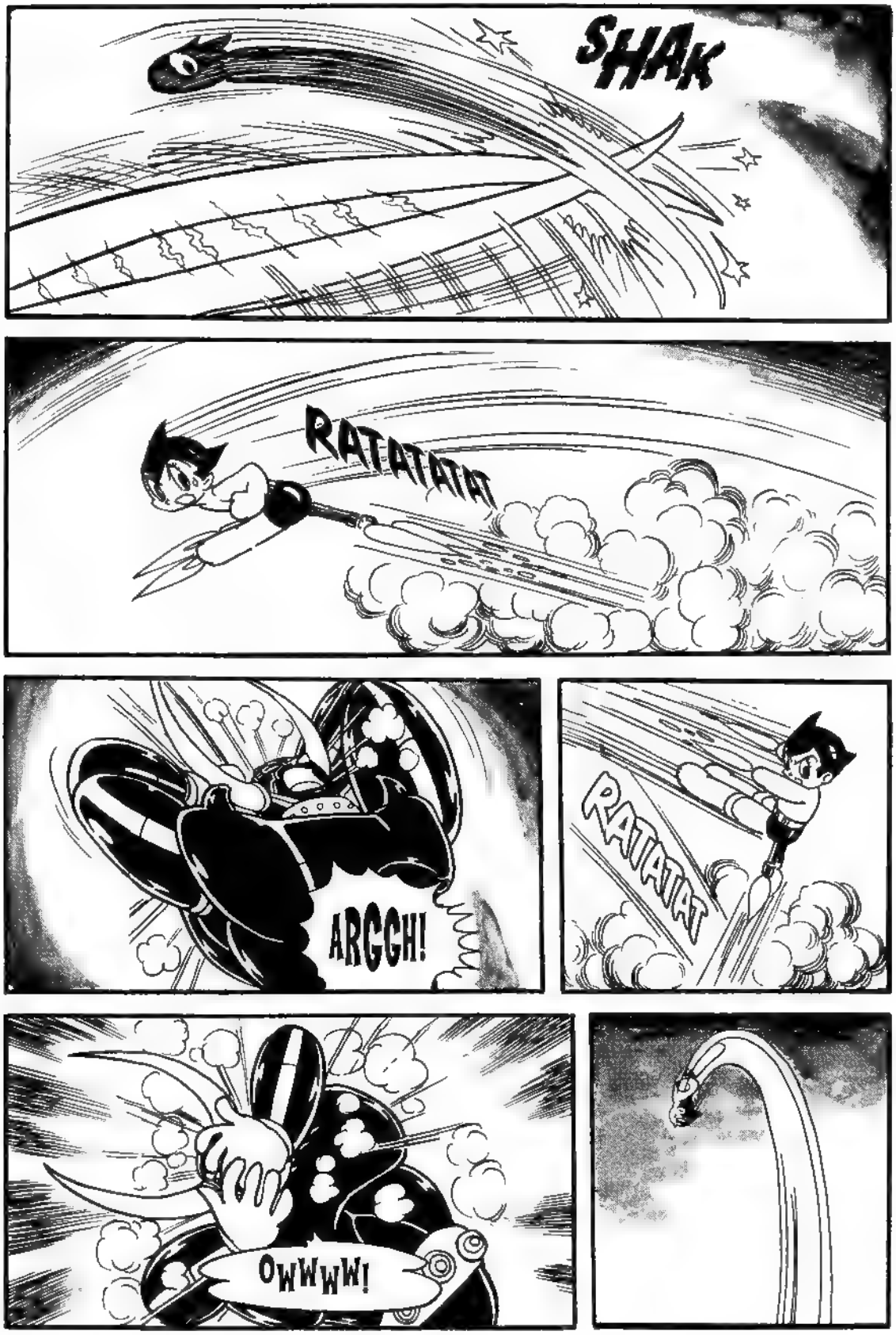

ARGHH!

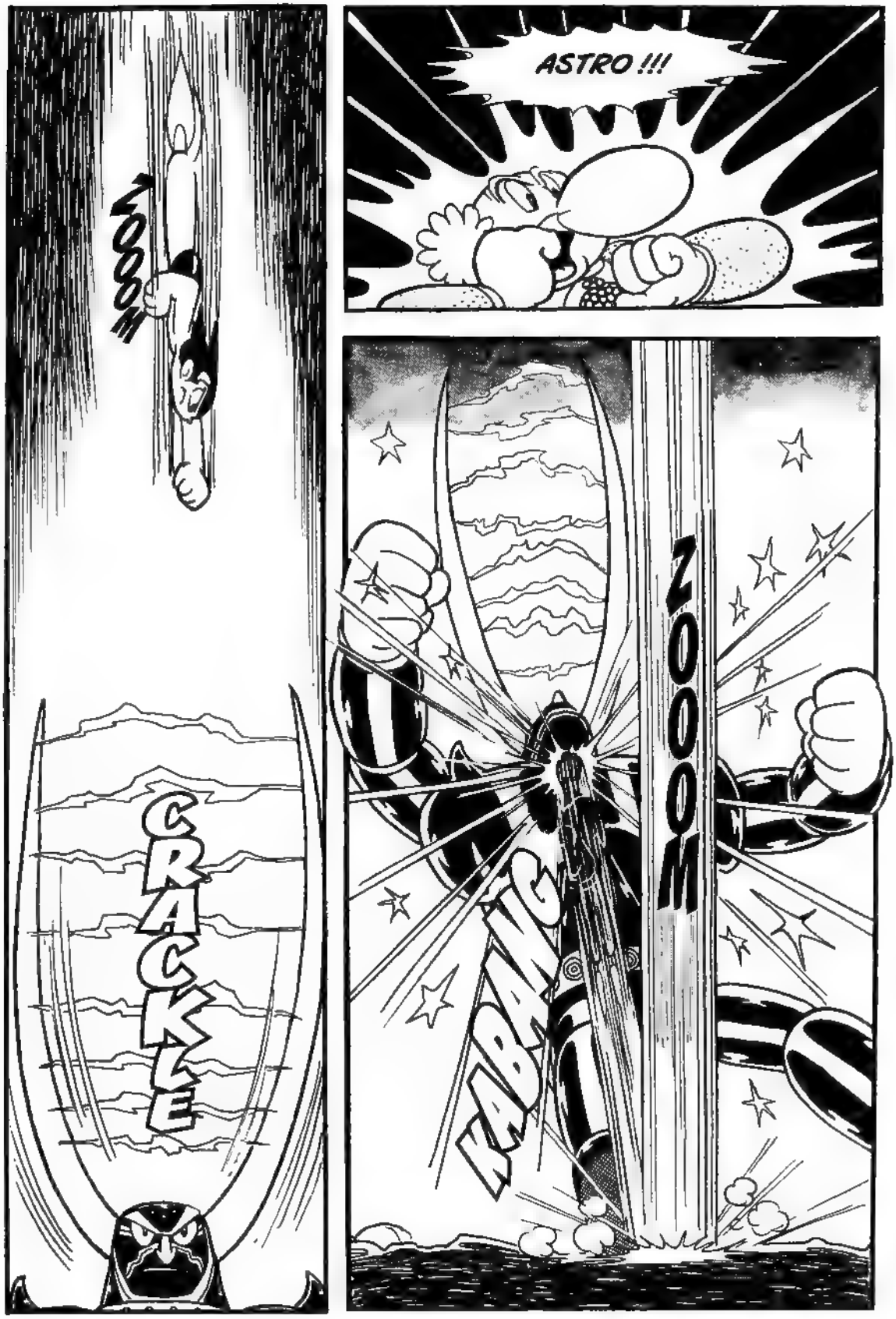
SMASH!!

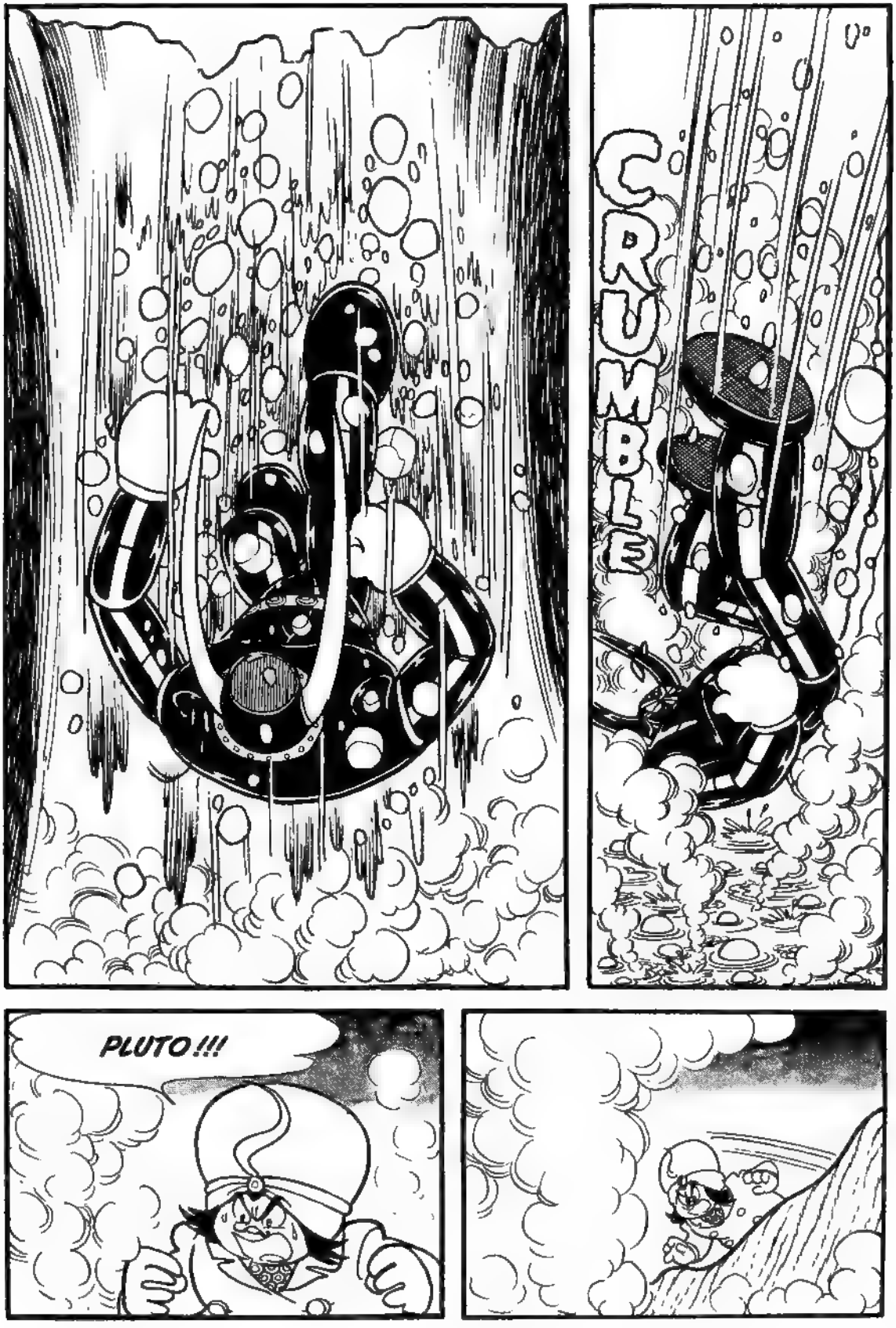

ASTRO! YOU'VE CHANGED! WHO GAVE YOU A MILLION HORSEPOWER?
DR. TENMA!
TENMA?! BUT ASTRO, YOU DON'T NEED THAT MUCH POWER!!


I CAN'T FIGHT PLUTO UNLESS I'VE GOT A MILLION HORSEPOWER, PROFESSOR!
FWIP
FWAP
FWIP
CHUNK
POW


KABASH
SPRONG
YIKES!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP


SHAK
RATATATAT
ARGGH!
RATATAT
OWWWW!

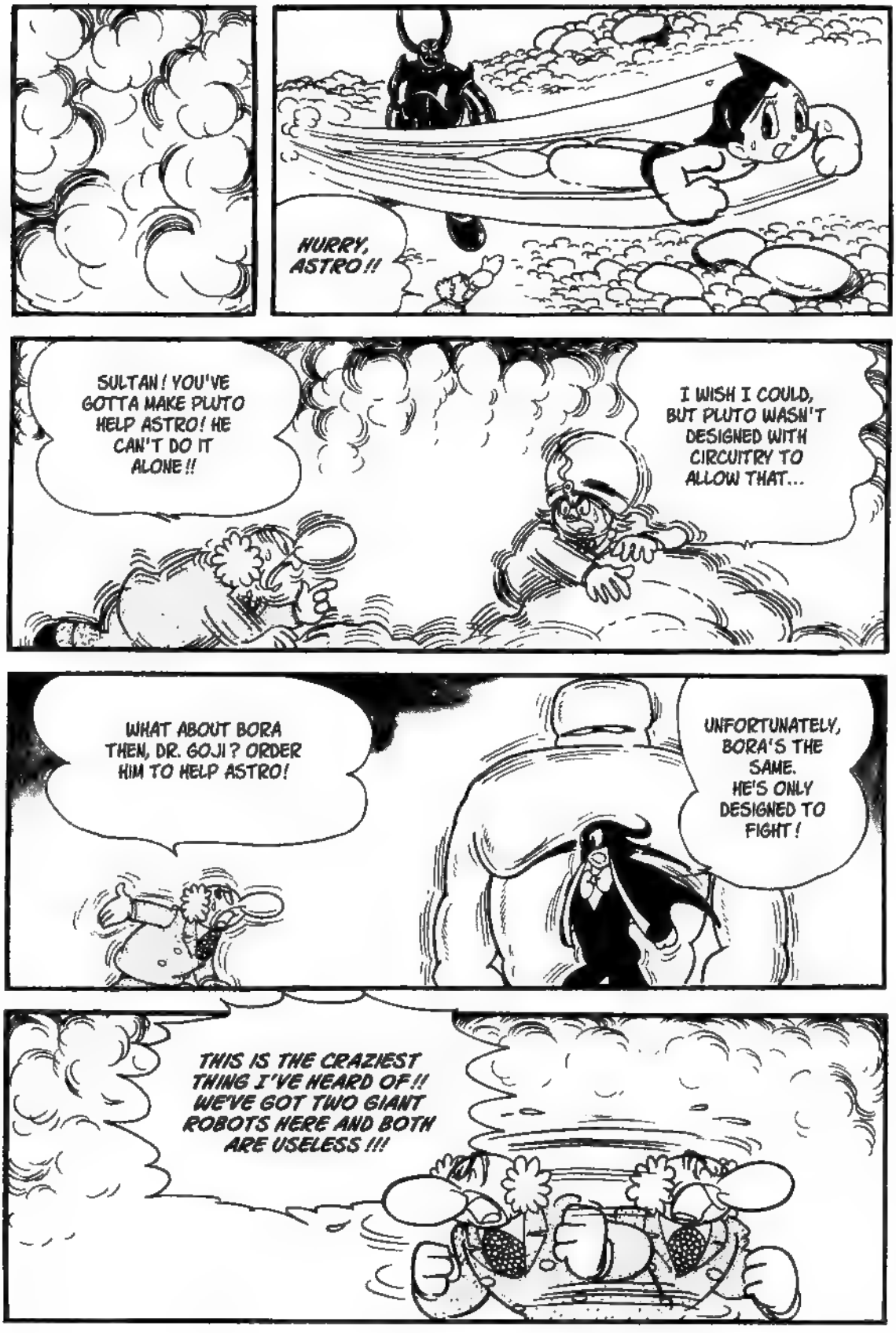

ASTRO !!!
WOOSH
CRACKLE
KABLAM
WOOOM


CRUMBLE
PLUTO!!!

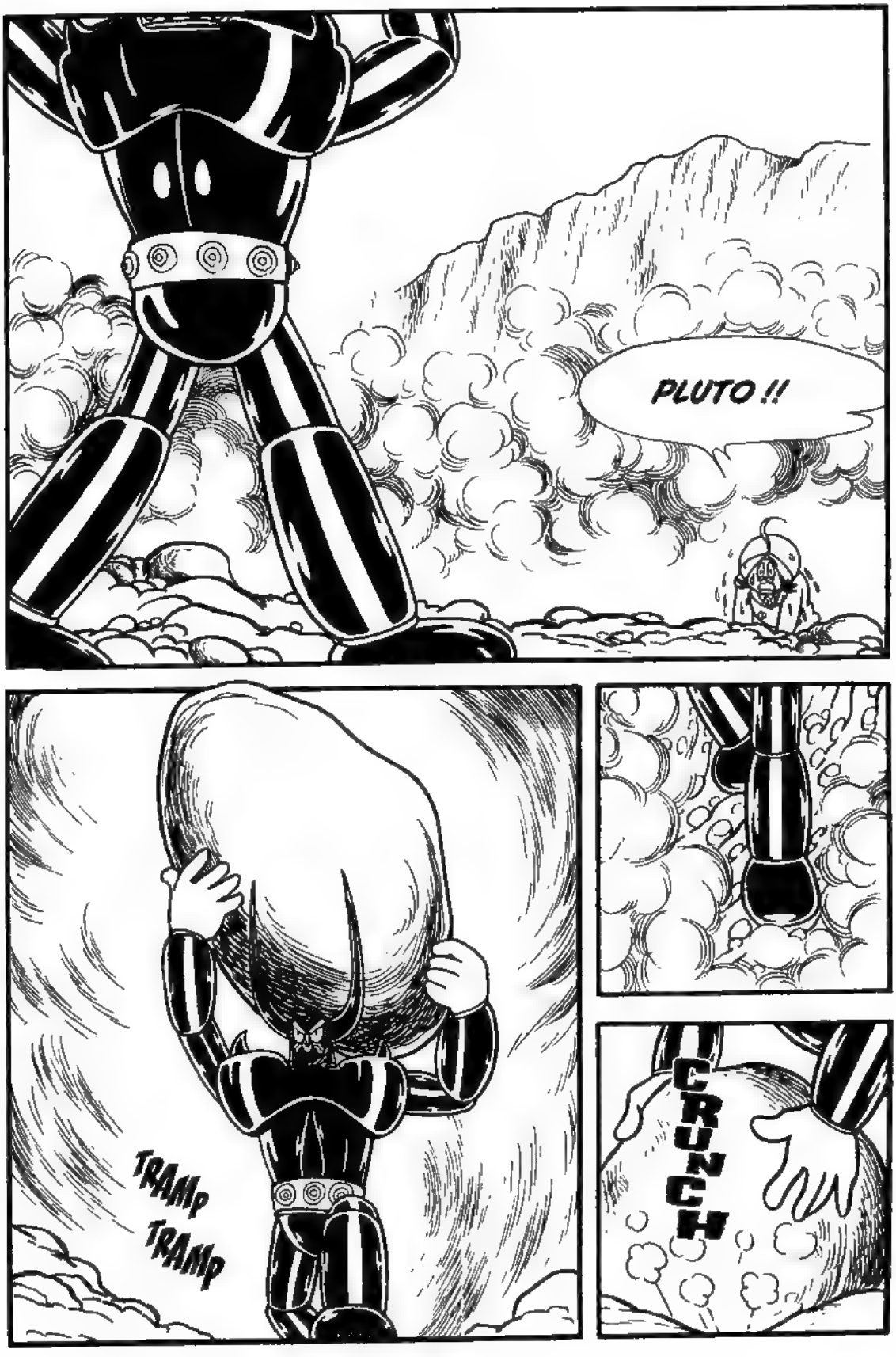
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
UH OH...
MT. ASO'S
ABOUT TO ERUPT!!
IT'LL BLOW
EVERYTHING UP!!

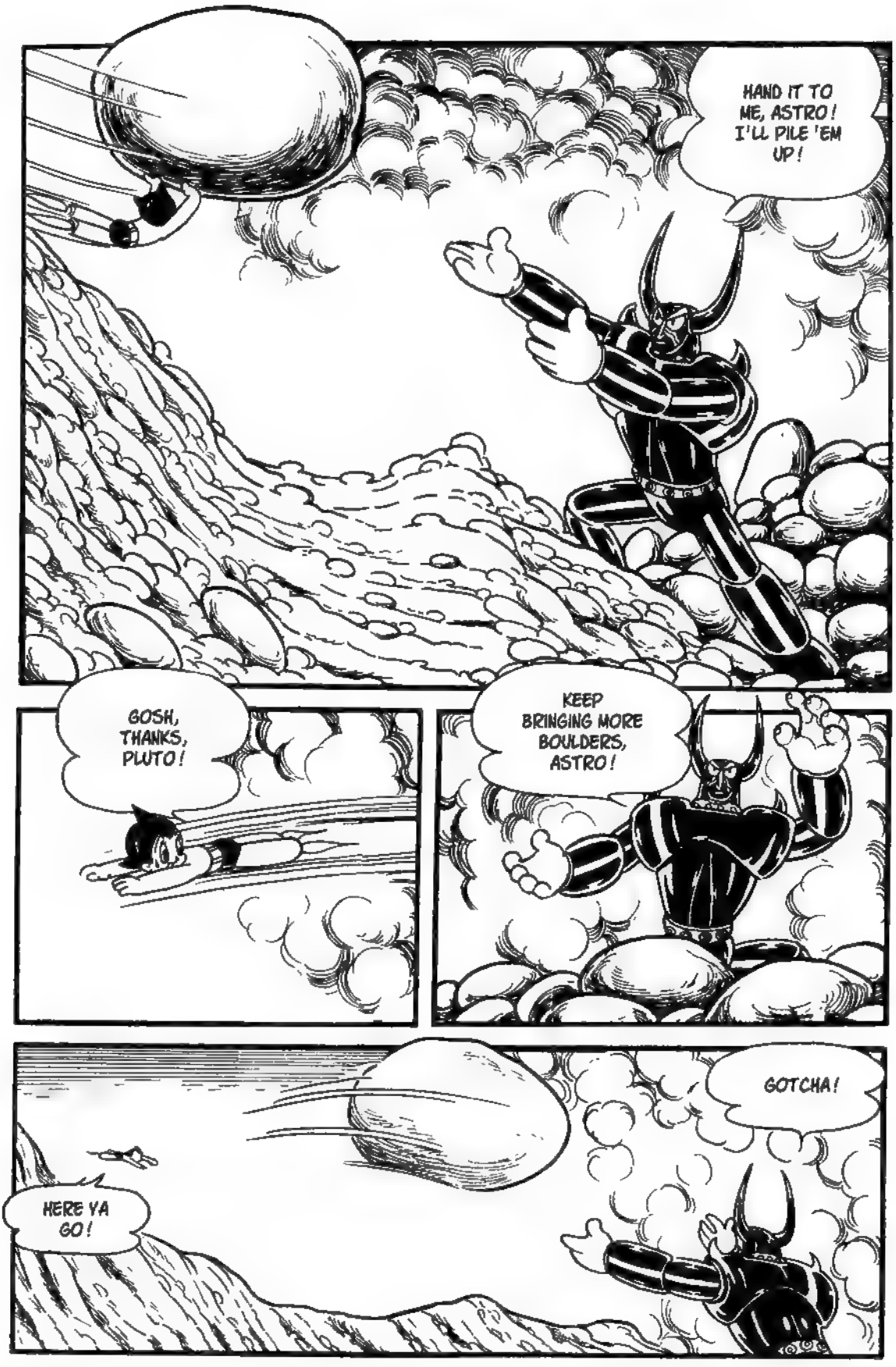
RUMBLE
ROAR
RUMBLE
ASTRO! WE'RE IN DANGER! MT. ASO'S ABOUT TO ERUPT!!
IF IT DOES, NOT ONLY KUMAMOTO CITY, BUT ALL THE SURROUNDING TOWNS AND VILLAGES WILL TURN INTO A SEA OF FLAMES!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHAT SHOULD I DO, PROFESSOR?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BUILD A MINI-MOUNTAIN ON TOP OF THE PLACE THAT'S ABOUT TO ERUPT! GET A BUNCH OF HUGE BOULDERS AND PILE 'EM UP THERE! HURRY, ASTRO!
PLUTO, YOU'VE GOTTA HELP!!

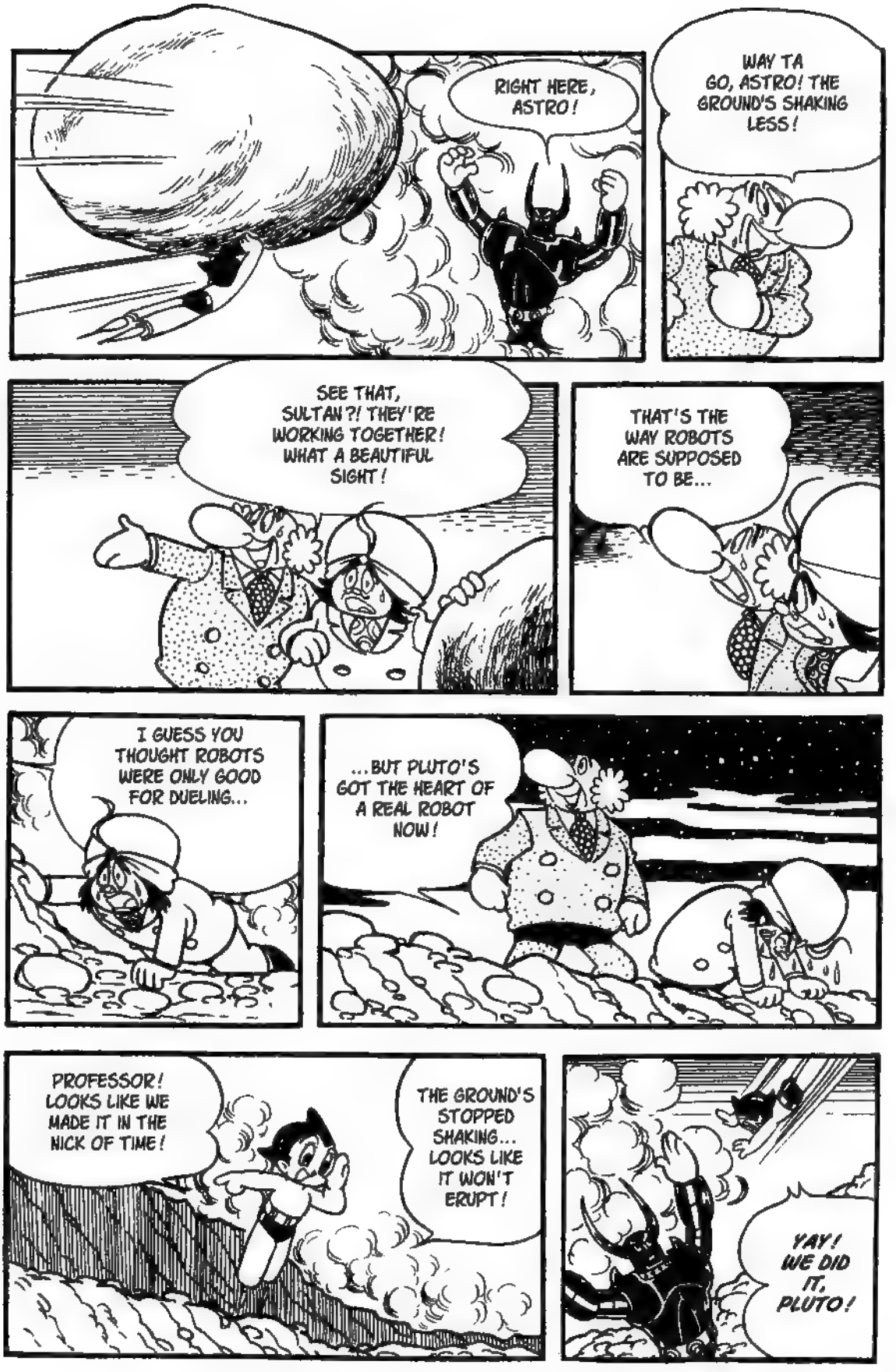
PLUTO! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! WE'RE IN DANGER!!
I WAS DESIGNED TO FIGHT. I DON'T WANT TO WASTE MY ENERGY ON ANYTHING ELSE...
YOU LUNKHEAD, PLUTO! HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A ROBOT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT ROBOTS ARE FOR! THAT'S NOT WHY YOU WERE BORN!!


HURRY, ASTRO!!
SULTAN! YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE PLUTO HELP ASTRO! HE CAN'T DO IT ALONE!!
I WISH I COULD, BUT PLUTO WASN'T DESIGNED WITH CIRCUITRY TO ALLOW THAT...
WHAT ABOUT BORA THEN, DR. GOJI? ORDER HIM TO HELP ASTRO!
UNFORTUNATELY, BORA'S THE SAME. HE'S ONLY DESIGNED TO FIGHT!
THIS IS THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE HEARD OF!! WE'VE GOT TWO GIANT ROBOTS HERE AND BOTH ARE USELESS!!!

I'VE GOTTA STOP UP THIS HOLE!
...EVEN IF I HAVE TO USE UP ALL MY ENERGY...
UH OH... IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW... I'VE FAILED!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ASTRO! YOU'VE GOT TO SUCCEED! I'M PRAYING FOR YOU!
TREMBLE TREMBLE

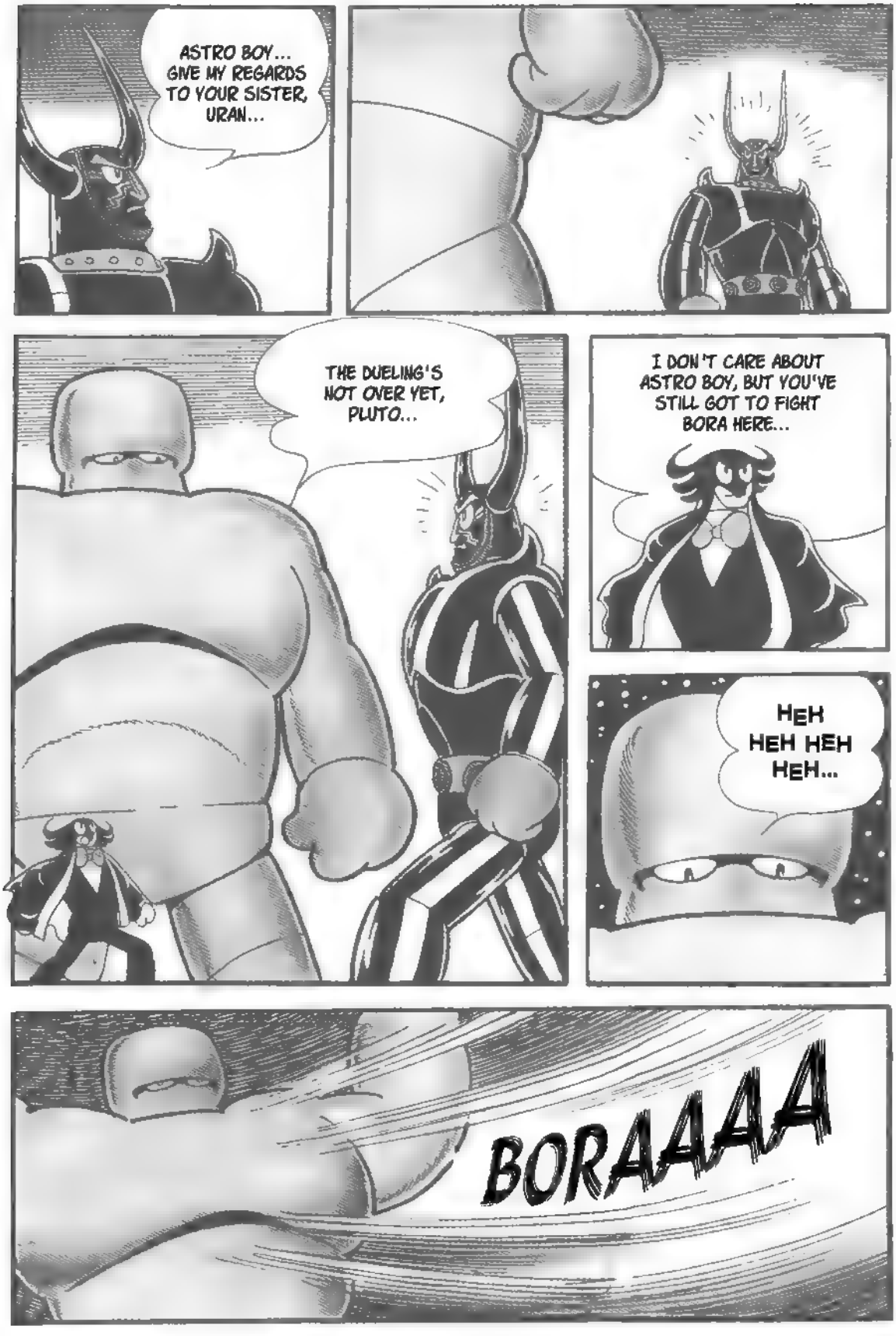

PLUTO !!
TRAMP
TRAMP
CRUNCH

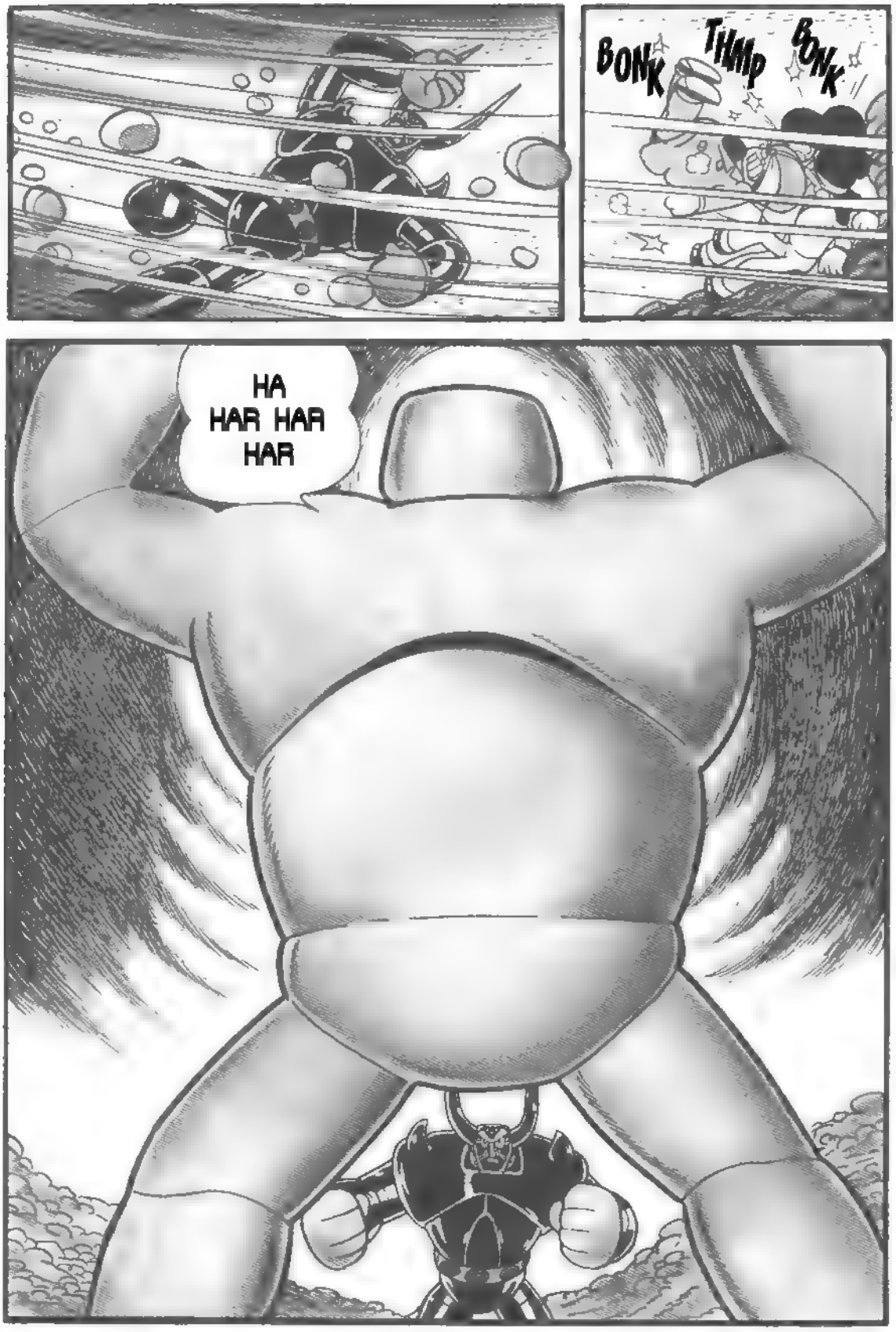

HAND IT TO ME, ASTRO! I'LL PILE 'EM UP!
GOSH, THANKS, PLUTO!
KEEP BRINGING MORE BOULDERS, ASTRO!
HERE YA GO!
GOTCHA!

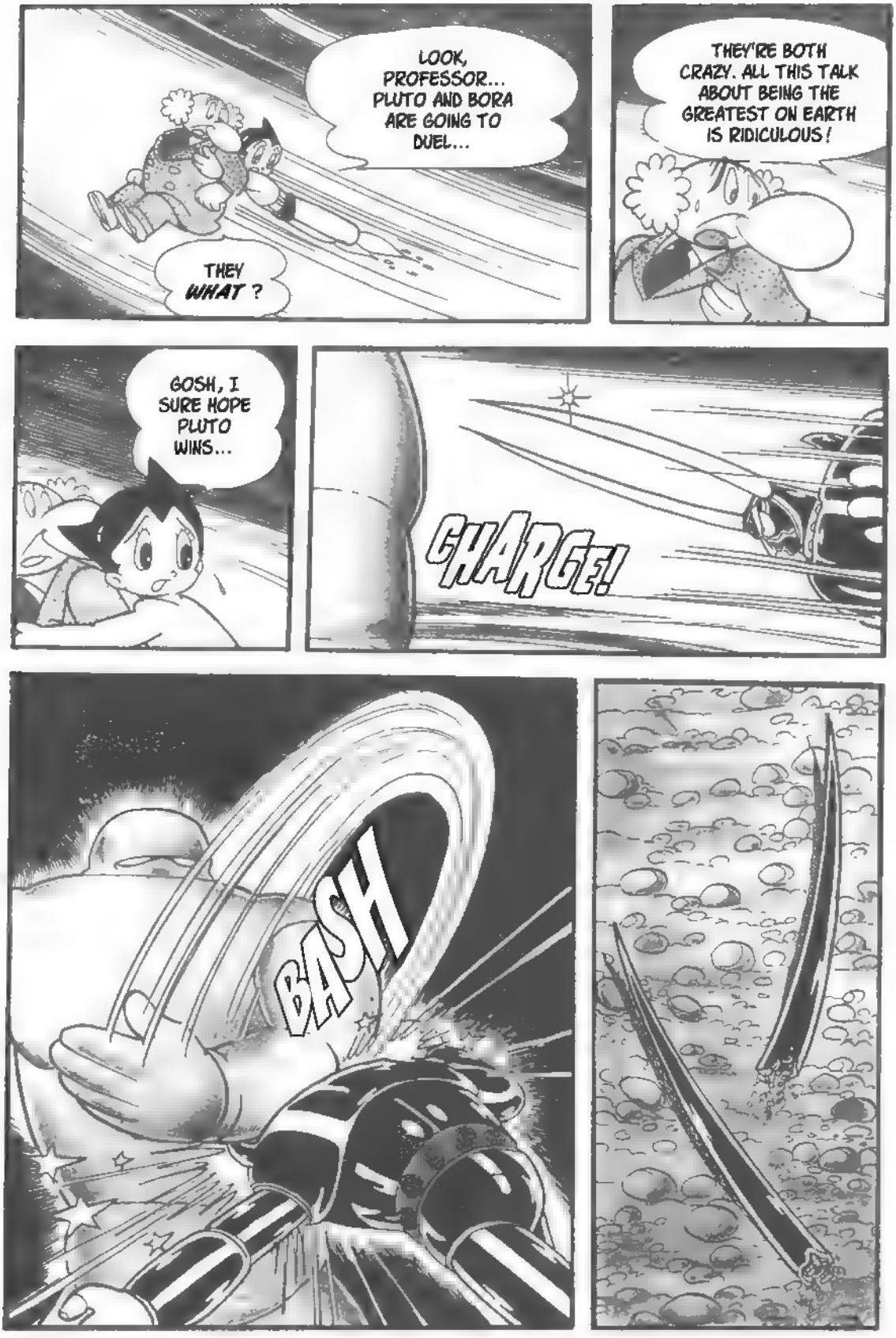

RIGHT HERE, ASTRO!
WAY TA GO, ASTRO! THE GROUND'S SHAKING LESS!
SEE THAT, SULTAN?! THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT!
THAT'S THE WAY ROBOTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE...
I GUESS YOU THOUGHT ROBOTS WERE ONLY GOOD FOR DUELING...
...BUT PLUTO'S GOT THE HEART OF A REAL ROBOT NOW!
PROFESSOR! LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT IN THE NICK OF TIME!
THE GROUND'S STOPPED SHAKING... LOOKS LIKE IT WON'T ERUPT!
YAY! WE DID IT, PLUTO!

A... ASTRO BOY... I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE...
DON'T WORRY, PLUTO. THIS IS THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE!
WE CAN CLIMB UP TOP AND FINISH OUR FIGHT NOW, IF YOU WANT!
NO.
I NEVER WANT TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN, ASTRO...
YOU ARE TOO FINE A ROBOT. I WOULD BE ASHAMED TO FIGHT YOU...
GOSH, PLUTO...

GO HOME, ASTRO, AND TAKE PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU WITH YOU. I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
PLUTO! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
WHAT SORT OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING? YOU'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO DO WHAT I TELL YOU, YOU BLOCKHEAD!!
YOU'RE THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH! AND YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT ASTRO BOY!!
.....
.....
THANKS, PLUTO!!
OH, NO YOU DON'T...
WHAT THE-?!
RATATATAT
PLUTO... YOU TRAITOR!


ASTRO BOY... GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR SISTER, URAN...
THE DUELING'S NOT OVER YET, PLUTO...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ASTRO BOY, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT TO FIGHT BORA HERE...
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
BORAAAAA

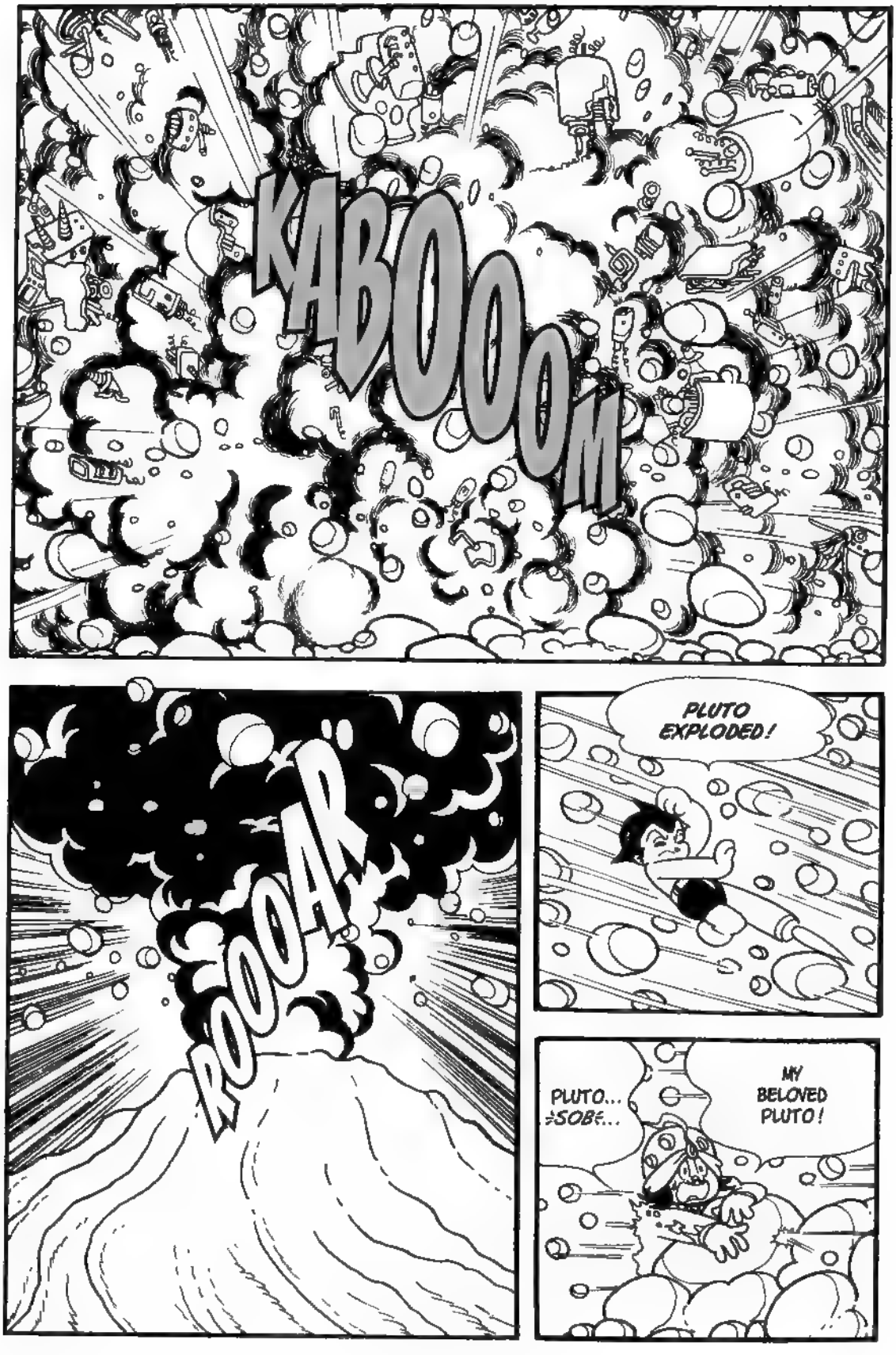

BONK
THMP
BONK
HA
HAR HAR
HAR

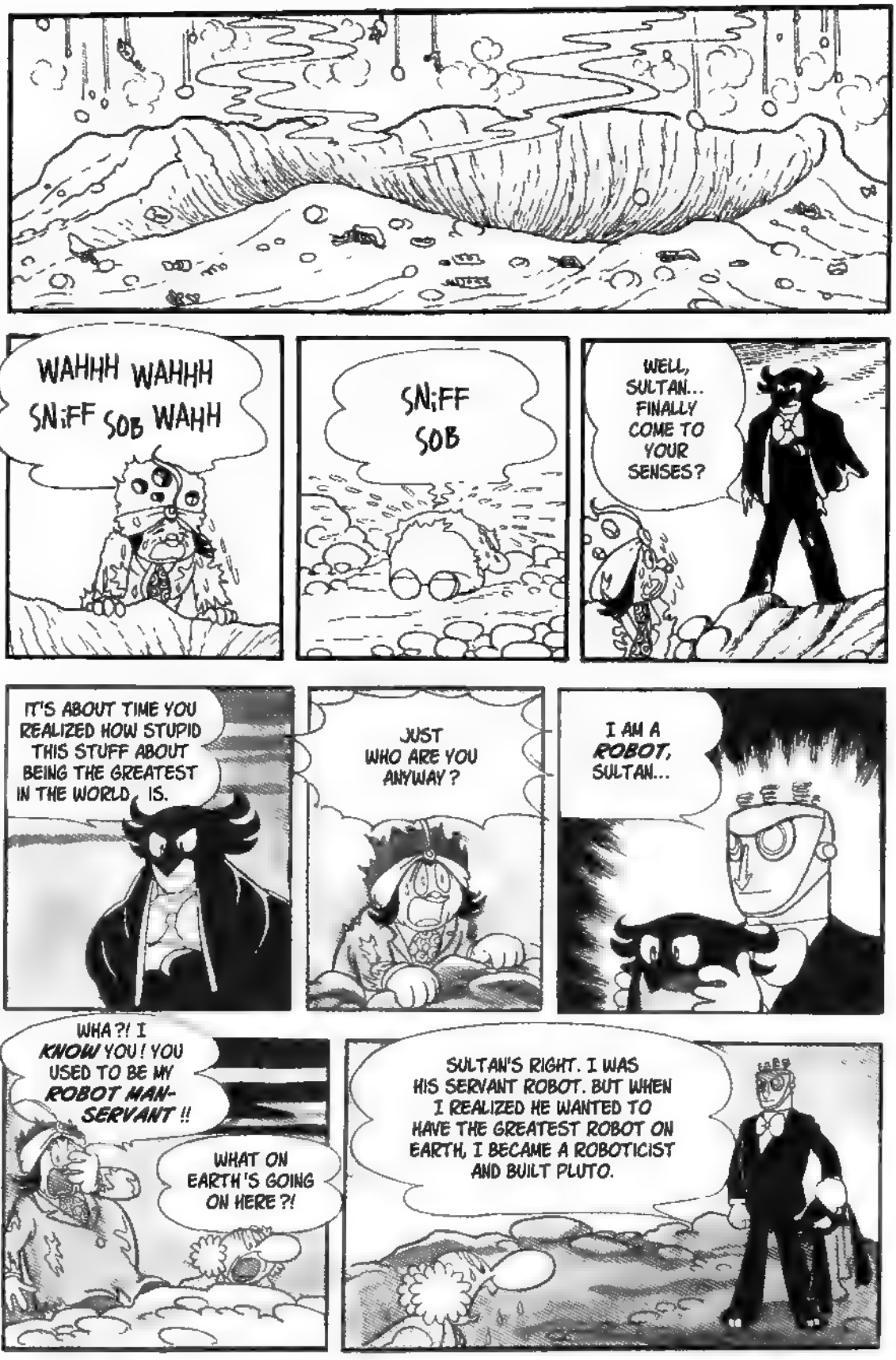

LOOK, PROFESSOR... PLUTO AND BORA ARE GOING TO DUEL...
THEY WHAT ?
THEY'RE BOTH CRAZY. ALL THIS TALK ABOUT BEING THE GREATEST ON EARTH IS RIDICULOUS!
GOSH, I SURE HOPE PLUTO WINS...
CHARGE!
BASH

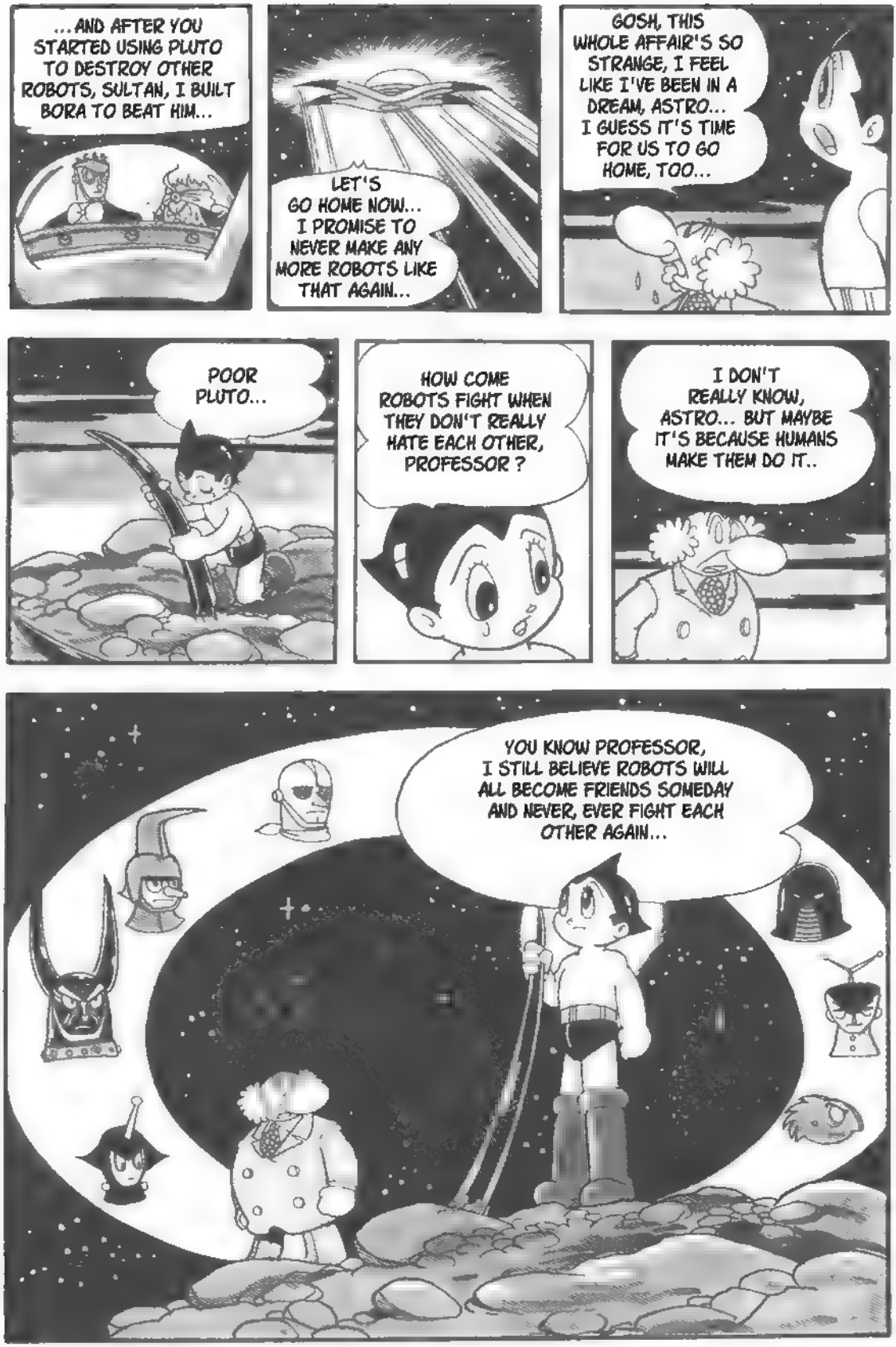
BORAHHH
SLAM

SMASH
CRUNCH
WRENCH
PLUTO! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH!
UH OH... PLUTO'S IN REAL DANGER NOW...
I'VE GOTTA MAKE A DETOUR, PROFESSOR, AND PUT YOU DOWN...
ASTRO! STOP! DON'T DO IT!!
VOOOSH
HOW DARE YOU HURT PLUTO, BORA! NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE ME ON!!
AGAAHHH HAH

ASTRO BOY... STAY OUT OF THIS... BORA'S MY OPPONENT, NOT YOURS! I MUST DEFEAT HIM ON MY OWN, FOR THE SAKE OF MY HONOR...
NO, PLUTO, NO! I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO BLOW YOURSELF UP, BUT I'M GONNA GET BORA FOR YOU!
SMASH
BORAAAGH
UH OH!
CRUNCH
SMASH
KABASHH

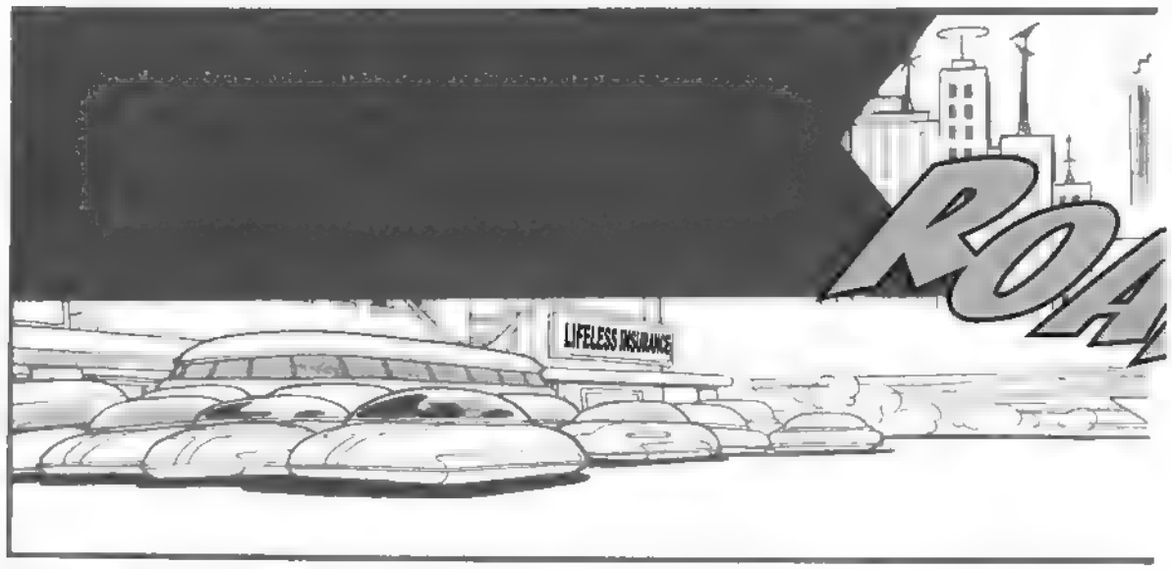

KABOOOM
ROOOAR
PLUTO EXPLODED!
PLUTO... SOB...
MY BELOVED PLUTO!

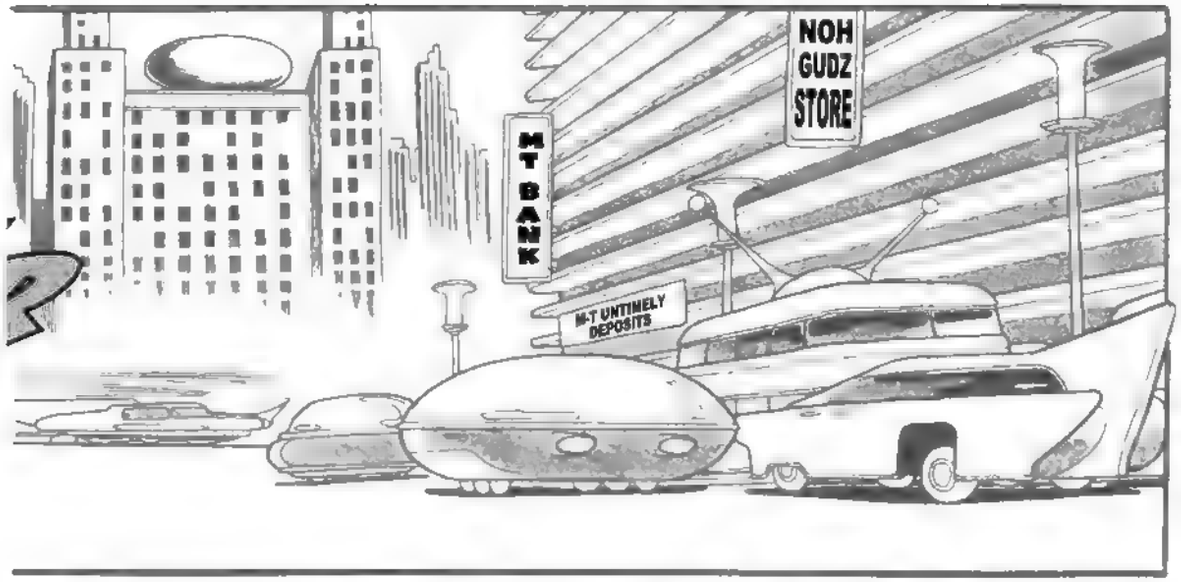

WAHHH WAHHH SNIFF SOB WAHH
SNIFF SOB
WELL, SULTAN... FINALLY COME TO YOUR SENSES?
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REALIZED HOW STUPID THIS STUFF ABOUT BEING THE GREATEST IN THE WORLD IS.
JUST WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
I AM A ROBOT, SULTAN...
WHA?! I KNOW YOU! YOU USED TO BE MY ROBOT MAN-SERVANT !!
WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON HERE?!
SULTAN'S RIGHT. I WAS HIS SERVANT ROBOT. BUT WHEN I REALIZED HE WANTED TO HAVE THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH, I BECAME A ROBOTICIST AND BUILT PLUTO.


...AND AFTER YOU STARTED USING PLUTO TO DESTROY OTHER ROBOTS, SULTAN, I BUILT BORA TO BEAT HIM...
LET'S GO HOME NOW... I PROMISE TO NEVER MAKE ANY MORE ROBOTS LIKE THAT AGAIN...
GOSH, THIS WHOLE AFFAIR'S SO STRANGE, I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN IN A DREAM, ASTRO... I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO HOME, TOO...
POOR PLUTO...
HOW COME ROBOTS FIGHT WHEN THEY DON'T REALLY HATE EACH OTHER, PROFESSOR ?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, ASTRO... BUT MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HUMANS MAKE THEM DO IT..
YOU KNOW PROFESSOR, I STILL BELIEVE ROBOTS WILL ALL BECOME FRIENDS SOMEDAY AND NEVER, EVER FIGHT EACH OTHER AGAIN...

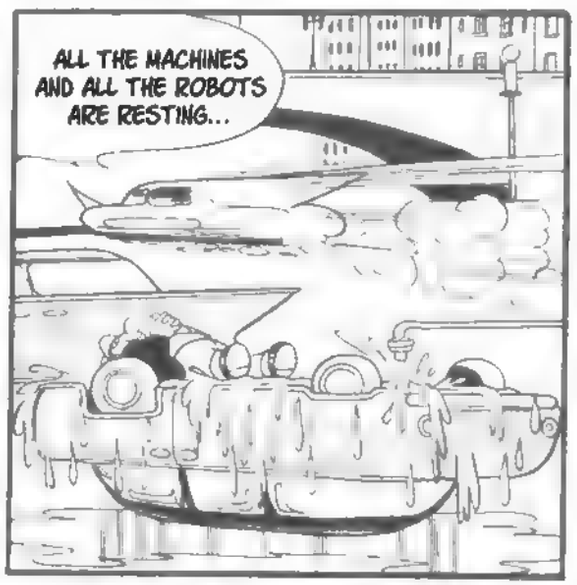
MAD MACHINE

Originally serialized in August and September 1958 in *Shonen* magazine.


ROAR
LIFELESS INSURANCE


NOH GUDZ STORE
M-T BANK
M-T UNTIMELY DEPOSITS

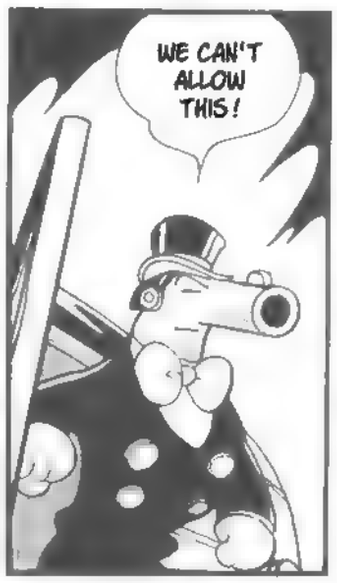
EVERYTHING'S SO QUIET... WHAT A PEACEFUL SIGHT.


ALL THE MACHINES AND ALL THE ROBOTS ARE RESTING...

IT'S "MACHINE DAY," SIR, AND ALL THE MACHINES THROUGHOUT JAPAN ARE SUPPOSED TO REST.
I KNOW THAT !!

BUT IT'S MY FACTORY, BLAST IT!
AND WHAT I DO WITH IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
I'M SORRY, SIR... BUT YOU MUST STOP THE MACHINES, PLEASE...

BUT WAIT... THAT FACTORY'S STILL OPERATING!

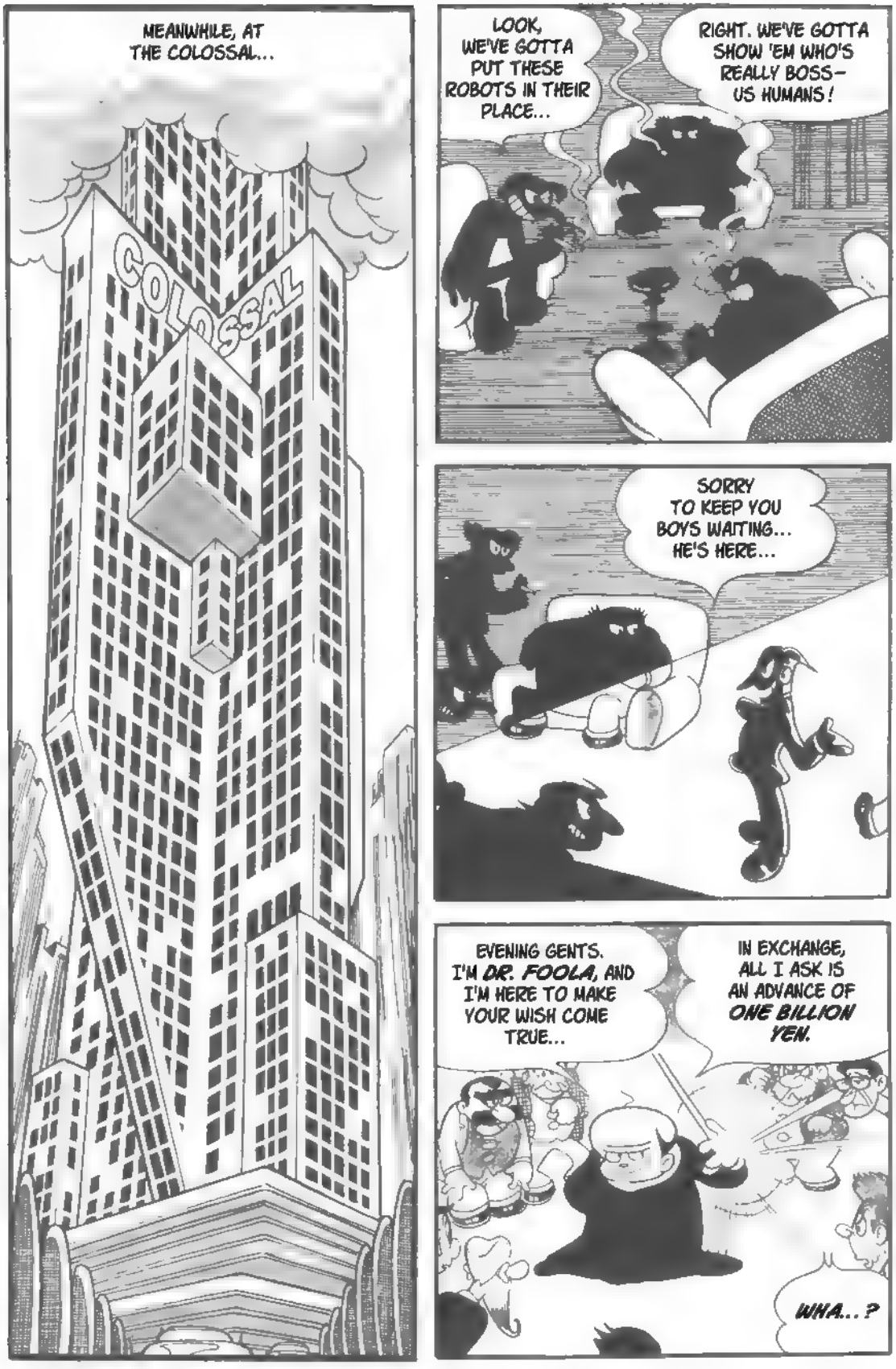

WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS!

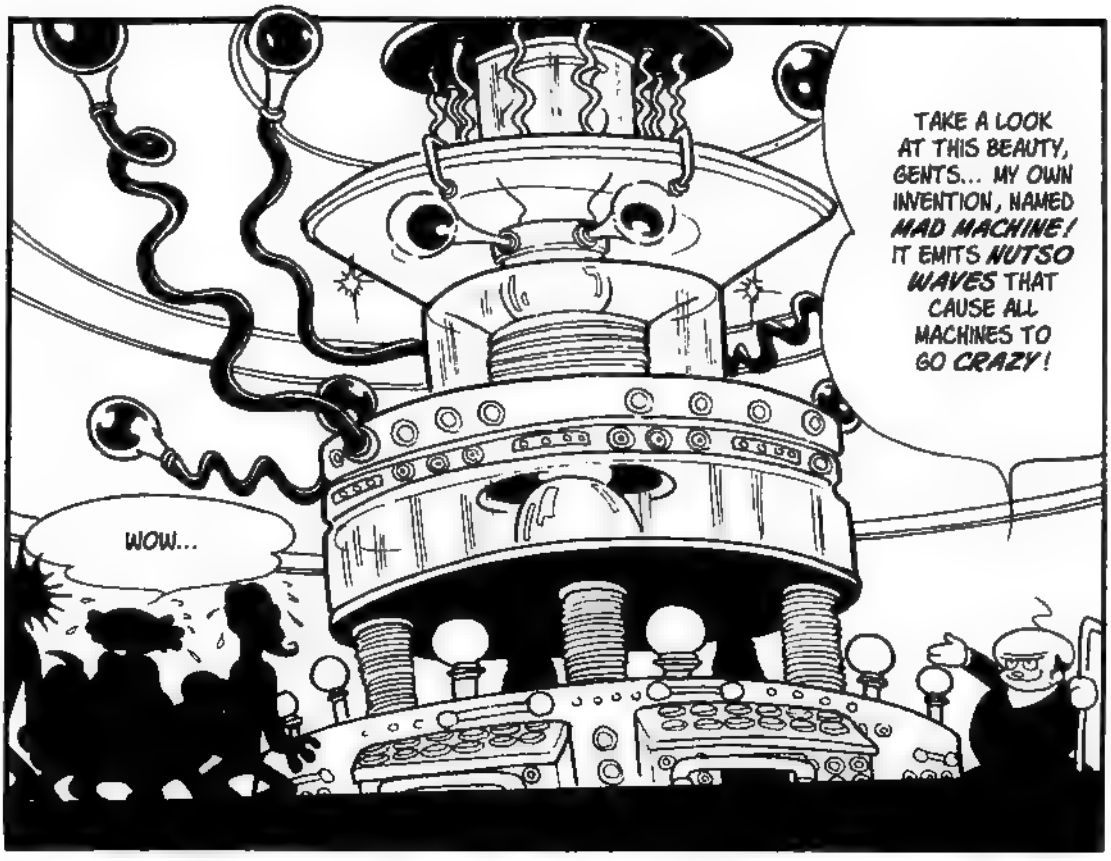
'SCUSE ME. MAY I SEE THE PRESIDENT ?
YOU'RE TALKING TO HIM.

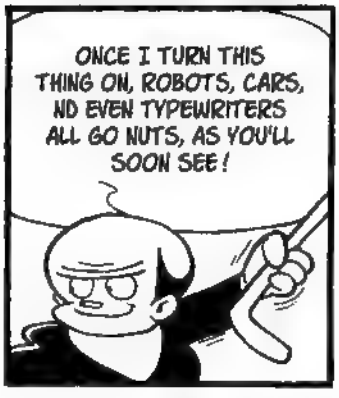
LIKE BLAZES I WILL !!
SINCE WHEN DID ROBOTS LIKE YOU START GIVING ORDERS ?
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
IT'S NOT AN ORDER ...

I'M COLT... YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT.
CO... COLT?!
STOP THE MACHINES!!!
THANK YOU, SIR.
BLAST IT! I WOULD HAVE TO GET CAUGHT BY COLT, OF ALL PEOPLE! HE'S THE ONE WHO PASSED THAT INFERNAL MACHINE DAY HOLIDAY!
HURRAH FOR COLT! HURRAH! HURRAH!
REPRESENTATIVE COLT'S HERE!
Y-
-A-
-A-
-A-
-Y!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! MR. COLT IS THE FIRST ROBOT REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT!
AND HE'S THE ONE WHO PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH A "MACHINE DAY" FOR ROBOTS!
CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF "MACHINE DAY"!
NOW, OF COURSE THERE WERE SOME HUMANS OPPOSED...

... BUT MR. COLT NONETHELESS MANAGED TO WIN THEM OVER, AND THE BILL PASSED !!
HINE DA
SEE, ASTRO? SOMEDAY YOU COULD BECOME FAMOUS LIKE MR. COLT!
SQUEEZE
IT'S THANKS TO MR. COLT THAT WE MACHINES GET A DAY OFF EVERY MONTH!
FOR A ROBOT, THAT GUY'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE...
WELL, HE'S A HECK OF A LOT MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN YOU ARE, PAL...
HEY, THE RECEPTION'S STARTED!
YIPPEE! FREE DRINKS, HERE WE COME!
NEWSPAPER REPORTERS
HOORAAY
BANZAI
YAY
YAY
ARAAAAGH! BLECH! IT'S GASOLINE !!
HELLO?... REALLY? ... DOES SEEM LIKE SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...
BALLROOM
GOTCHA. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT...
HEY, GUYS... SOME OPPONENTS OF "MACHINE DAY" ARE GATHERING IN FRONT OF THE COLOSSAL BUILDING.
I'LL TAKE PARTIES FOR HUMANS ANY DAY...
REALLY ?

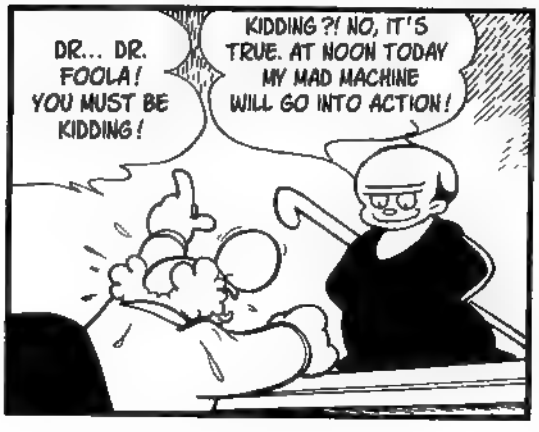

MEANWHILE, AT THE COLOSSAL...
COLOSSAL
LOOK, WE'VE GOTTA PUT THESE ROBOTS IN THEIR PLACE...
RIGHT. WE'VE GOTTA SHOW 'EM WHO'S REALLY BOSS— US HUMANS!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU BOYS WAITING... HE'S HERE...
EVENING GENTS. I'M DR. FOOLA, AND I'M HERE TO MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE...
IN EXCHANGE, ALL I ASK IS AN ADVANCE OF ONE BILLION YEN.
WHA...?

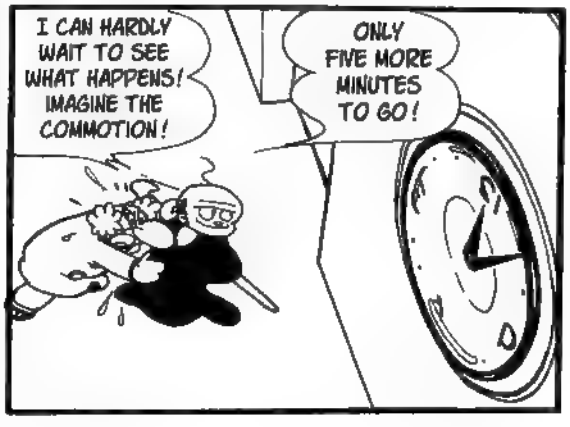

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS BEAUTY, GENTS... MY OWN INVENTION, NAMED *MAD MACHINE!* IT EMITS *NUTSO WAVES* THAT CAUSE ALL MACHINES TO GO *CRAZY!*
WOW...

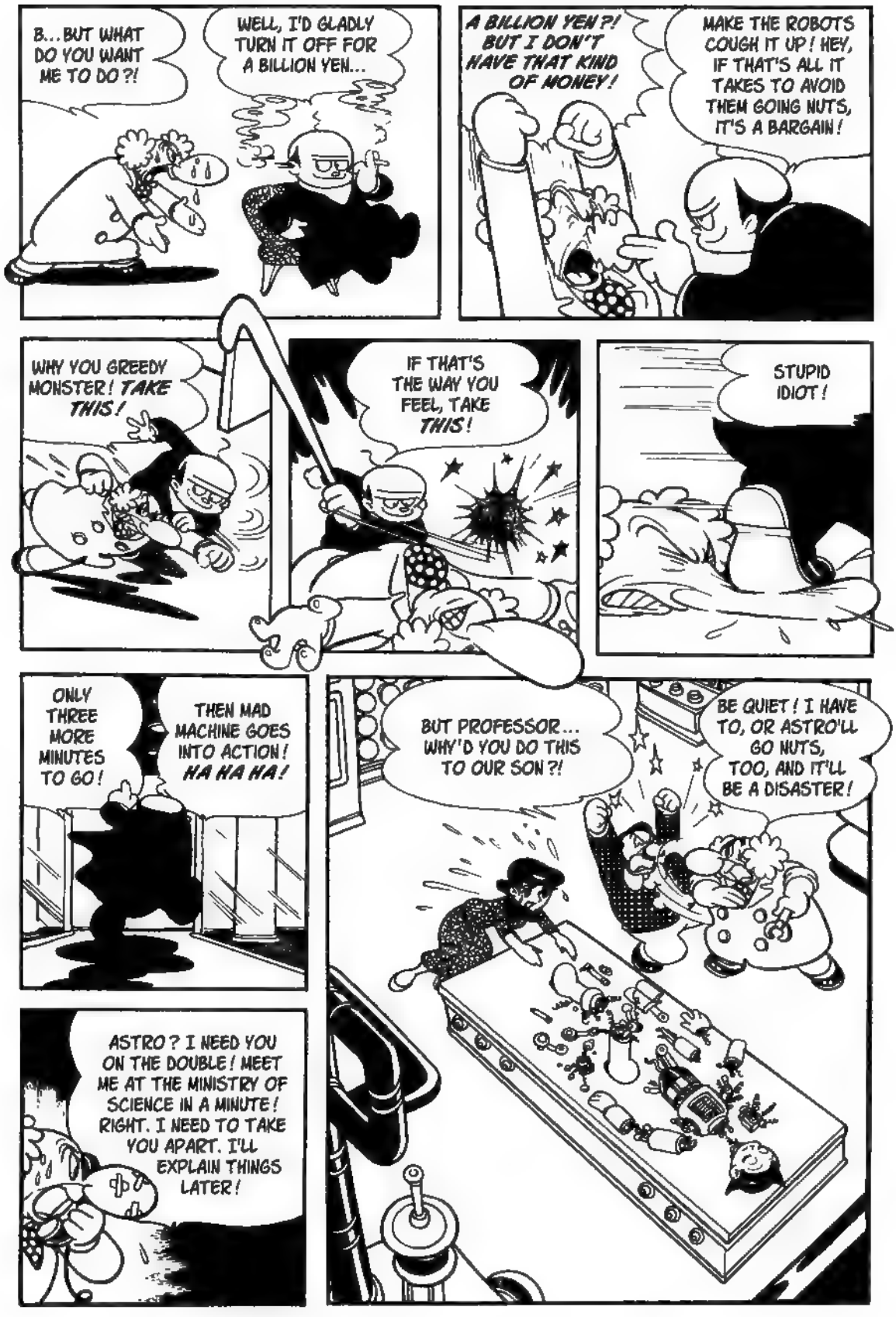

ONCE I TURN THIS THING ON, ROBOTS, CARS, ND EVEN TYPEWRITERS ALL GO NUTS, AS YOU'LL SOON SEE!

SO FORK OVER THE ONE BILLION!
SURE IS A LOT OF MONEY...

THANKS FOR THE BILLION, GENTS!


DR... DR. FOOLA! YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
KIDDING?! NO, IT'S TRUE. AT NOON TODAY MY MAD MACHINE WILL GO INTO ACTION!

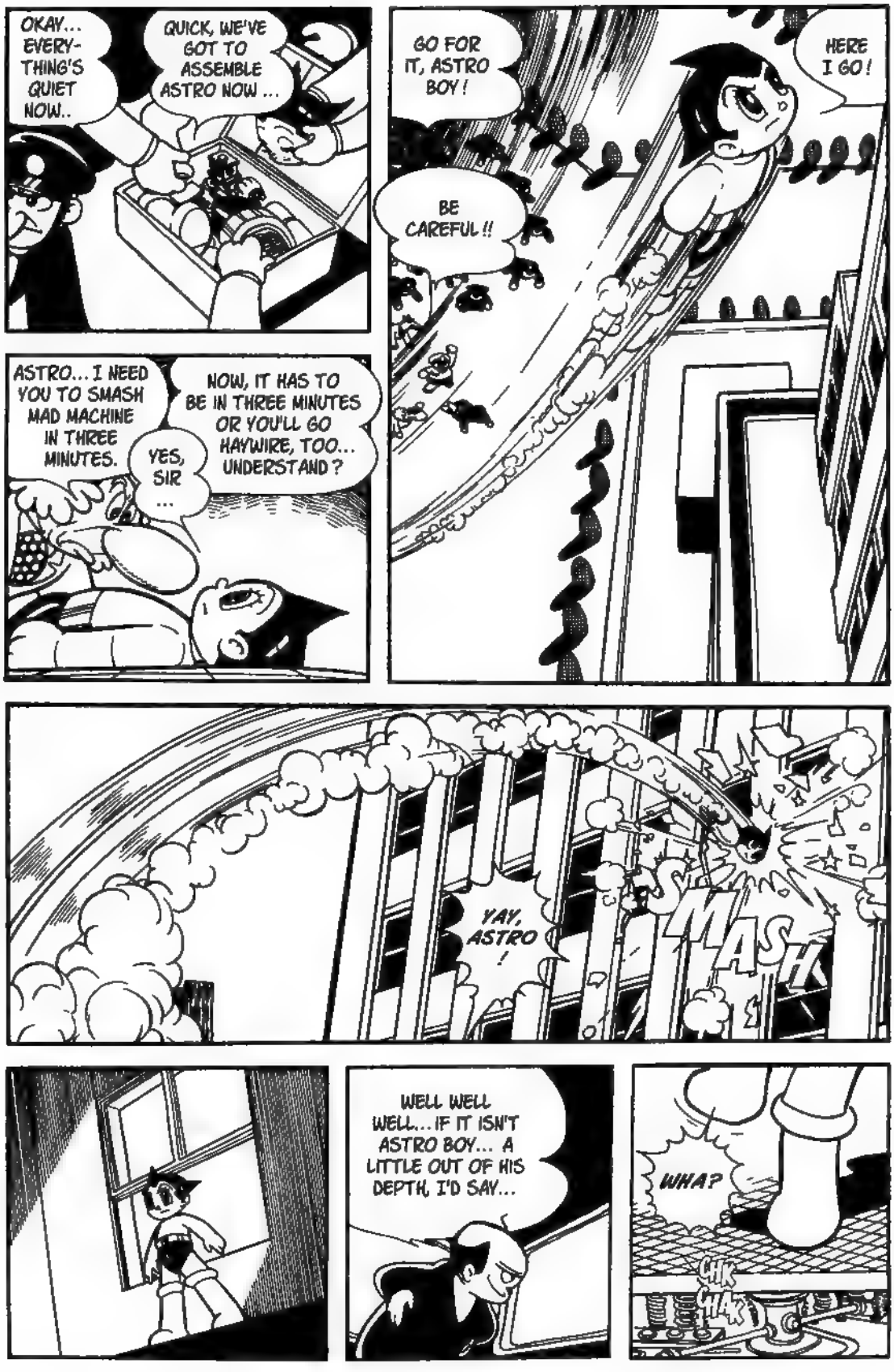

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS! IMAGINE THE COMMOTION!
ONLY FIVE MORE MINUTES TO GO!

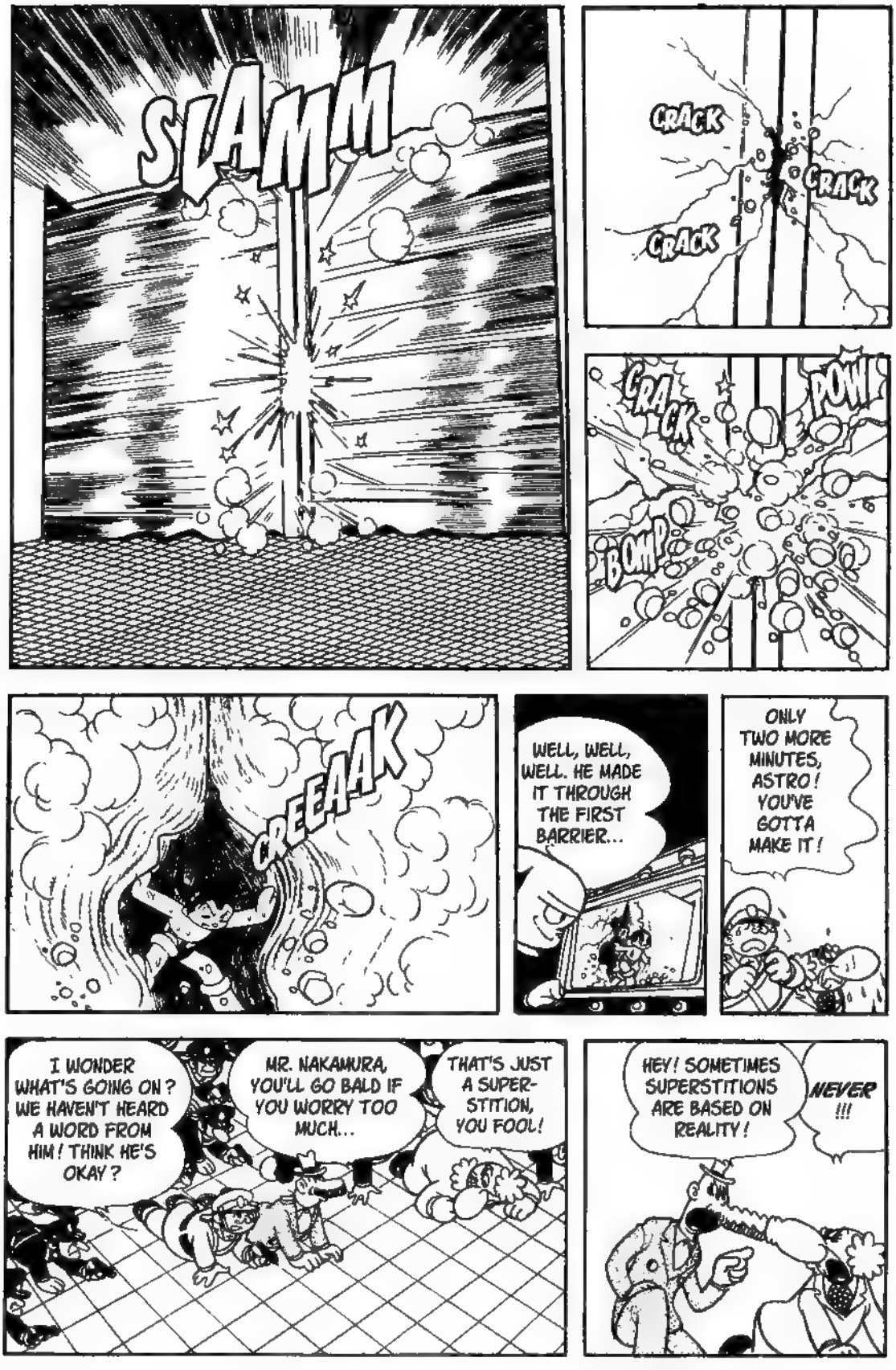

B...BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?!
WELL, I'D GLADLY TURN IT OFF FOR A BILLION YEN...
A BILLION YEN?! BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!
MAKE THE ROBOTS COUGH IT UP! HEY, IF THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO AVOID THEM GOING NUTS, IT'S A BARGAIN!
WHY YOU GREEDY MONSTER! TAKE THIS!
IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, TAKE THIS!
STUPID IDIOT!
ONLY THREE MORE MINUTES TO GO!
THEN MAD MACHINE GOES INTO ACTION! HA HA HA!
BUT PROFESSOR... WHY'D YOU DO THIS TO OUR SON?!
BE QUIET! I HAVE TO, OR ASTRO'LL GO NUTS, TOO, AND IT'LL BE A DISASTER!
ASTRO? I NEED YOU ON THE DOUBLE! MEET ME AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE IN A MINUTE! RIGHT. I NEED TO TAKE YOU APART. I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS LATER!

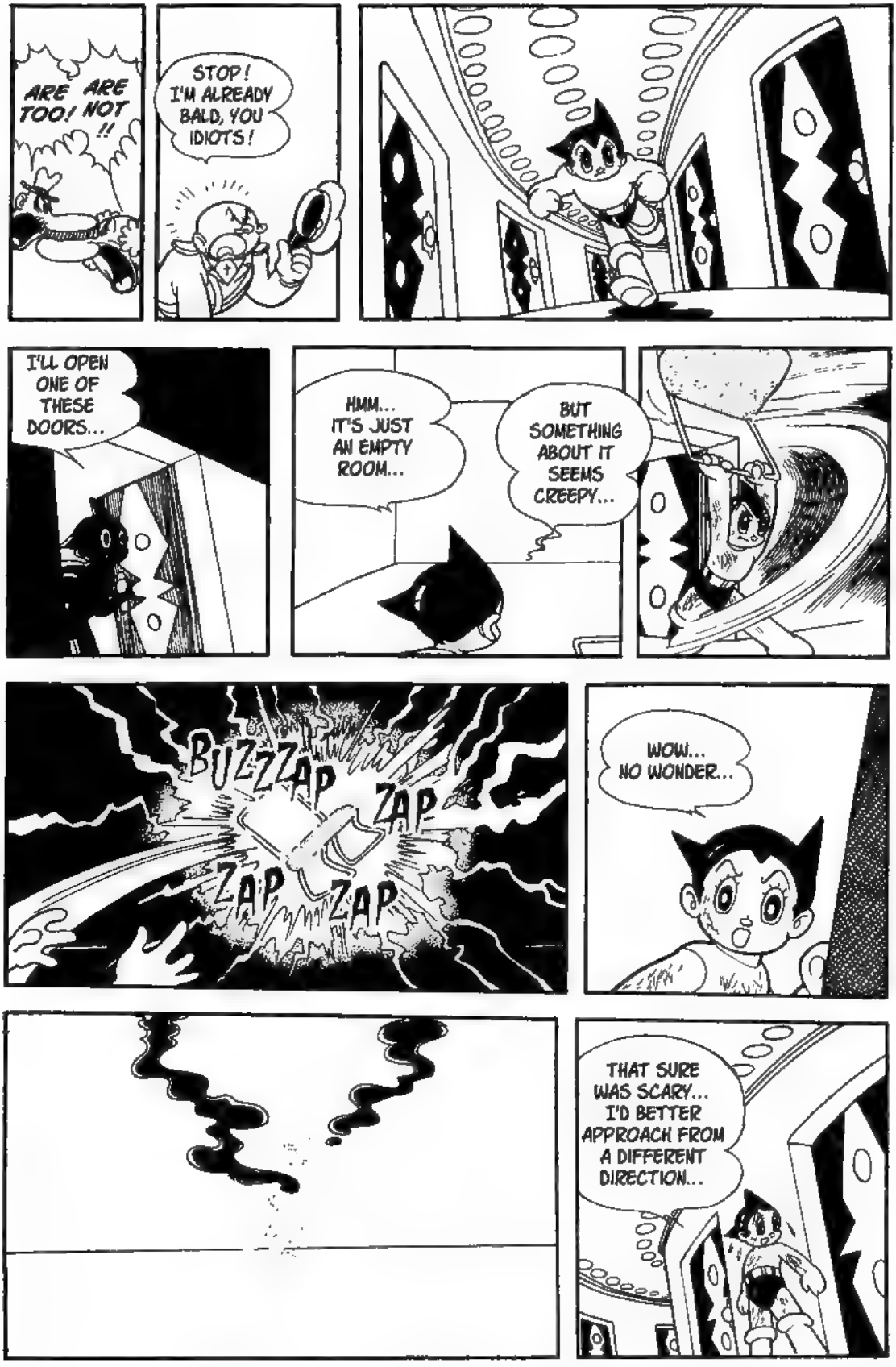
IT'S TWELVE O'CLOCK. TIME TO POWER ON!
ZIPPP
ZARPP
ZAAP
ZAAP
ZAAP
ACK!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
YOW!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
BUZZZ
THE CARS'RE CRAZY!
OWW! OUCH! EEK!
ROAR
THAT DARN FOOLA WENT AHEAD WITH HIS PLAN! EVERYTHING'S GONE CRAZY! WHAT'LL I DO?
ARGH!!!

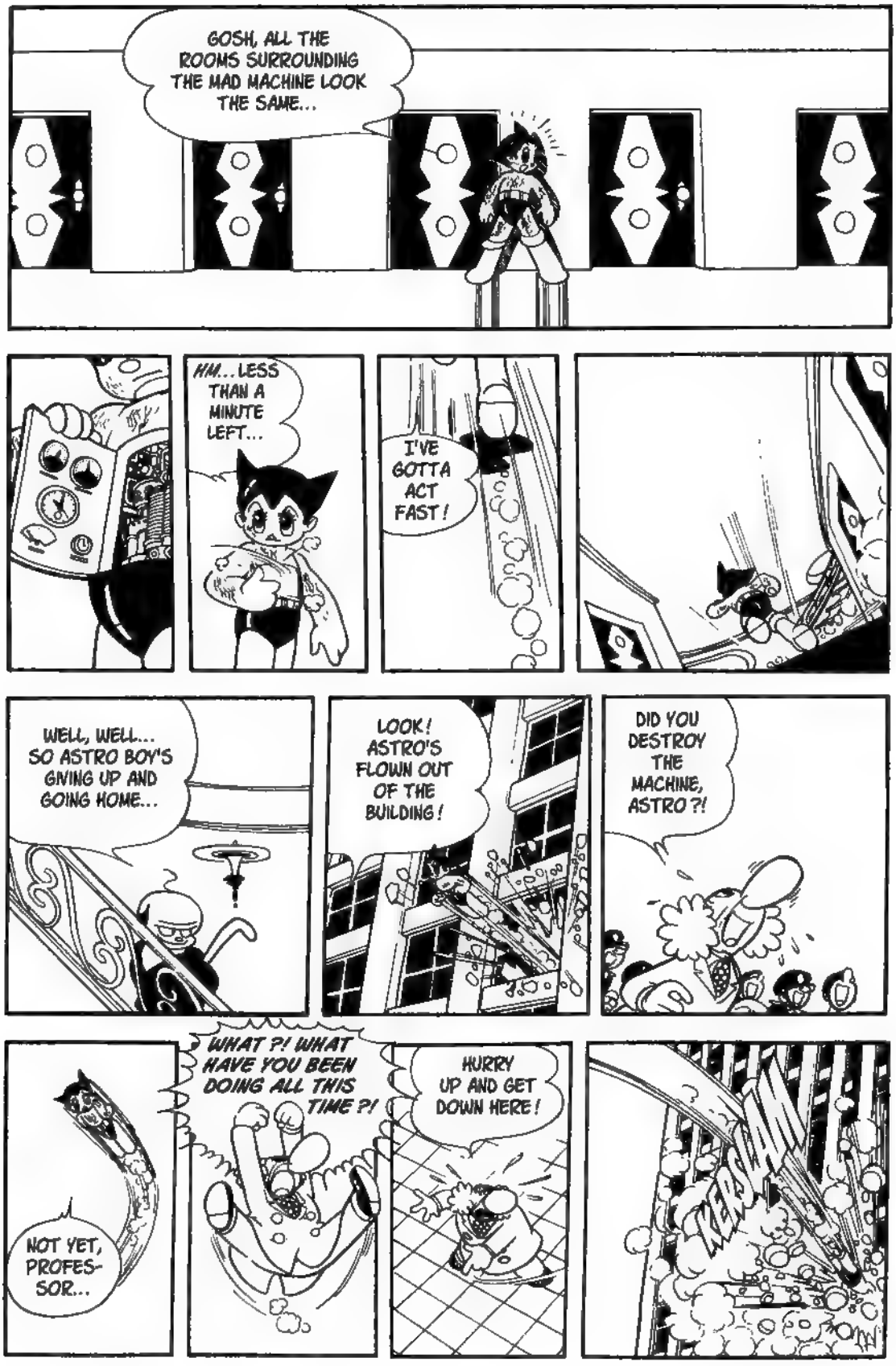
MACHINES ALL OVER TOKYO HAVE GONE CRAZY!
SAY, MRS. TANAKA, OUR RADIO'S ACTING WEIRD!
GOSH, OURS IS TOO!
STUPID! HA HAH STUPID!
HA HAH
IDIOTS!
CELEBRATING "MACHINE DAY"
OPERATOR? GET ME THE NEWSPAPER!
HEY, THE PHONE'S NOT WORKING!
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HEAR ME BECAUSE THE BROADCASTING STATION'S GONE NUTS, FOLKS, BUT HERE'S THE LATEST NEWS!
DR. FOOLA! THIS IS GOING TOO FAR! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!
HEH HEH HEH... SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO STOPPING MAD MACHINE NOW...
NO WHAT?!

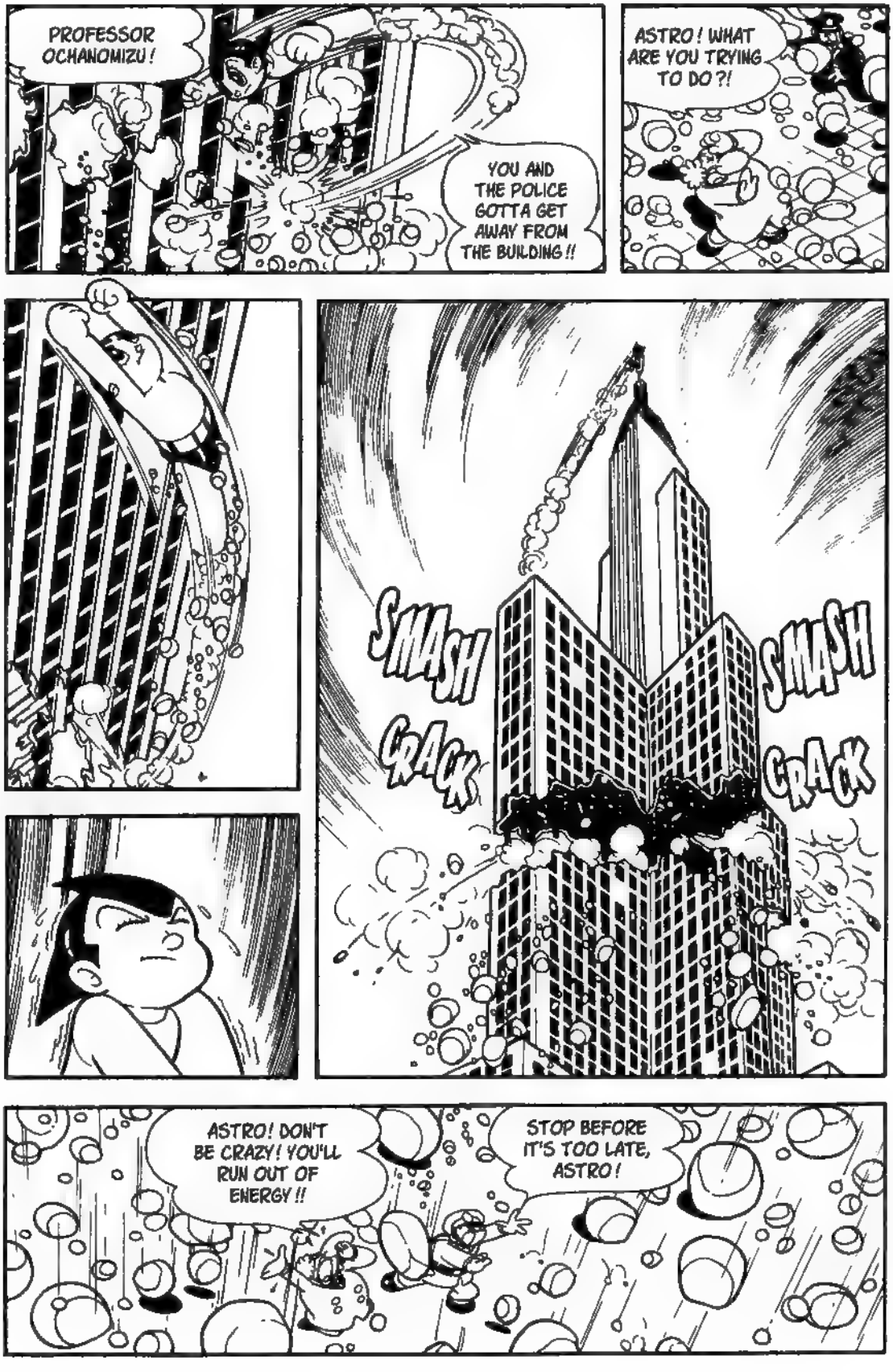
GENTS, THIS LITERALLY IS A MAD MACHINE NOW...
IT TAKES TWO BILLION YEN TO STOP IT. WHADDYA SAY?!
WHAT KIND OF IDIOTS DO YOU TAKE US FOR, FOOLA?!
AIEEE!
ZAP ZAP ZAP
WHAT'LL WE DO?
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, ALL OF TOKYO'LL BE DESTROYED!
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS AND EVERYTHING'S GONE WACKO! WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY DOING OVER AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE?
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU! WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THIS?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF DR. FOOLA'S MAD MACHINE!
HE EVEN CAME TO MY LAB AND THREATENED ME!!
HIS MAD MACHINE EMITS SOME SORT OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES AND IT DESTROYS GAUGES AND DIALS AND MAKES MACHINES GO CRAZY!
B...BUT WHERE IS IT?
IT'S INSIDE THE COLOSSUS BUILDING!
GET READY TO MOVE OUT, MEN!!
APPARENTLY HIS MAD MACHINE TAKES A BREAK EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS ALL THE MACHINES TEMPORARILY REVERT TO NORMAL...
HOW LONG'S THE BREAK?
ABOUT THREE MINUTES ...
WE'VE GOTTA LET ASTRO HANDLE THIS!
HE CAN APPROACH THE MACHINE DURING ITS THREE-MINUTE IDLE PERIOD AND SMASH IT!

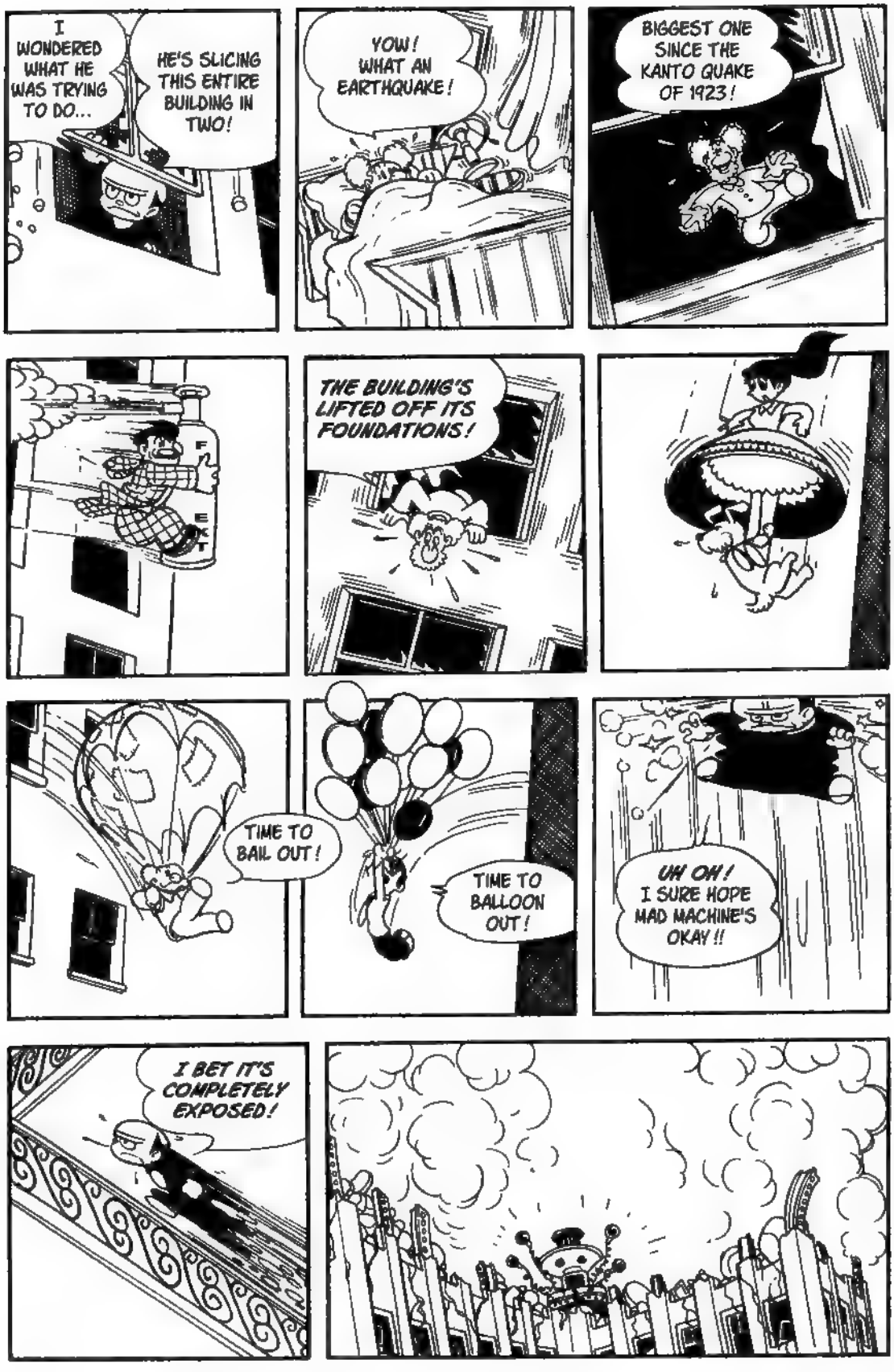

OKAY... EVERY-THING'S QUIET NOW..
QUICK, WE'VE GOT TO ASSEMBLE ASTRO NOW ...
GO FOR IT, ASTRO BOY!
HERE I GO!
BE CAREFUL!!
ASTRO... I NEED YOU TO SMASH MAD MACHINE IN THREE MINUTES.
YES, SIR ...
NOW, IT HAS TO BE IN THREE MINUTES OR YOU'LL GO HAYWIRE, TOO... UNDERSTAND?
YAY, ASTRO!
SMASH
WELL WELL WELL... IF IT ISN'T ASTRO BOY... A LITTLE OUT OF HIS DEPTH, I'D SAY...
WHA?
CHK
CHAK


SLAMM
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
POW!
BOMP
CREEAAK
WELL, WELL, WELL. HE MADE IT THROUGH THE FIRST BARRIER...
ONLY TWO MORE MINUTES, ASTRO! YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE IT!
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON? WE HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD FROM HIM! THINK HE'S OKAY?
MR. NAKAMURA, YOU'LL GO BALD IF YOU WORRY TOO MUCH...
THAT'S JUST A SUPER-STITION, YOU FOOL!
HEY! SOMETIMES SUPERSTITIONS ARE BASED ON REALITY!
NEVER !!!

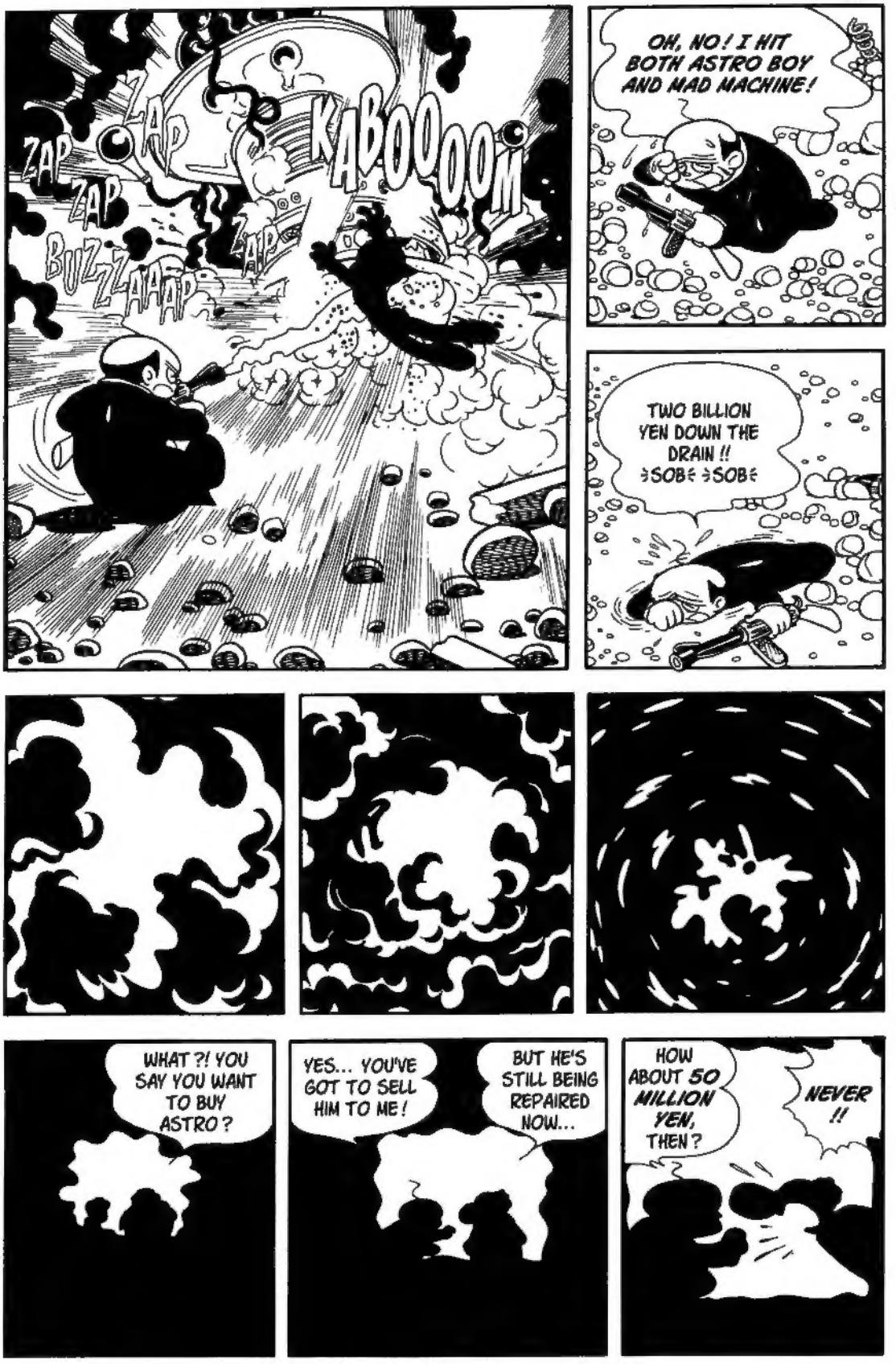

ARE ARE TOO! NOT !!
STOP! I'M ALREADY BALD, YOU IDIOTS!
I'LL OPEN ONE OF THESE DOORS...
HMM... IT'S JUST AN EMPTY ROOM...
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT IT SEEMS CREEPY...
BUZZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
WOW... NO WONDER...
THAT SURE WAS SCARY... I'D BETTER APPROACH FROM A DIFFERENT DIRECTION...


GOSH, ALL THE ROOMS SURROUNDING THE MAD MACHINE LOOK THE SAME...
HM...LESS THAN A MINUTE LEFT...
I'VE GOTTA ACT FAST!
WELL, WELL... SO ASTRO BOY'S GIVING UP AND GOING HOME...
LOOK! ASTRO'S FLOWN OUT OF THE BUILDING!
DID YOU DESTROY THE MACHINE, ASTRO?!
NOT YET, PROFES-SOR...
WHAT?! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?!
HURRY UP AND GET DOWN HERE!
KERSMASH


PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!
YOU AND THE POLICE GOTTA GET AWAY FROM THE BUILDING!!
ASTRO! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
SMASH
CRACK
SMASH
CRACK
ASTRO! DON'T BE CRAZY! YOU'LL RUN OUT OF ENERGY!!
STOP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, ASTRO!


I WONDERED WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO DO...
HE'S SLICING THIS ENTIRE BUILDING IN TWO!
YOW! WHAT AN EARTHQUAKE!
BIGGEST ONE SINCE THE KANTO QUAKE OF 1923!
EXIT
THE BUILDING'S LIFTED OFF ITS FOUNDATIONS!
TIME TO BAIL OUT!
TIME TO BALLOON OUT!
UH OH! I SURE HOPE MAD MACHINE'S OKAY!!
I BET IT'S COMPLETELY EXPOSED!

ONLY TEN SECONDS LEFT, ASTRO!!
...EIGHT SECONDS!
I'LL BE DARNED IF I LET YOU HURT MY MACHINE, ASTRO BOY!
ZOOOM
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
...SIX SECONDS...
ARGH...! I'VE BEEN HIT!
BUZZAAAAP
I CAN'T GIVE UP... JUST A BIT MORE...


ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
BUZZAAAAP
KABOOOOOM
OH, NO! I HIT BOTH ASTRO BOY AND MAD MACHINE!
TWO BILLION YEN DOWN THE DRAIN !!
SOB SOB
WHAT ?! YOU SAY YOU WANT TO BUY ASTRO ?
YES... YOU'VE GOT TO SELL HIM TO ME!
BUT HE'S STILL BEING REPAIRED NOW...
HOW ABOUT 50 MILLION YEN, THEN ?
NEVER !!

I'VE WANTED THAT ROBOT EVER SINCE I LAID EYES ON HIM...
HEY! WHATTAYOU THINK ASTRO IS? SOME KIND OF A PRODUCT FOR SALE?!! YOU OUGHTA BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, ALWAYS THINKING OF MONEY!
ASTRO...
FEELING BETTER, MY BOY?
I DO HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE FINE...
FRANKLY, I'VE BEEN A FOOLISH SCIENTIST, ALWAYS READY TO SELL MY SOUL FOR MONEY...
BUT I'VE CHANGED MY WAYS NOW...
I HEREBY SWEAR...
SNAP
...I'LL NEVER SPEAK OF MONEY AGAIN!!
MY GOSH, HE SNAPPED HIS CHAINS!
YOU SHOULDN'T USE SUCH CHEAP ONES, YOU MORONS!
I CAN SELL YOU SOME THAT'LL NEVER BREAK FOR ONLY FIVE THOUSAND YEN...
ASTRO! MR. COLT'S HERE TO SEE YOU...
MR. COLT? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
HI, MR. COLT...
AH, ASTRO BOY... HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU?
I KNOW IT'S SMALL COMPENSATION, BUT WE'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF "MACHINE DAY" TO "ASTRO BOY DAY" IN YOUR HONOR...
GOSH... NOW I FEEL EMBARRASSED...
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, ASTRO! CONGRAT-ULATIONS!

Dark Horse Comics brings the original Astro Boy to America for the first time in an English-language edition!

A timeless comics and animation classic, Osamu Tezuka's *Astro Boy* is still going strong half a century after its creation, winning over readers of all ages with its combination of action, wit, and humanity. In the novel-length "The Greatest Robot on Earth," a wealthy sultan creates a giant robot to become the ruler of all other robots on Earth. But in order for that to happen, he must defeat the seven most powerful robots in the world, including Astro Boy, who must have his horsepower raised from 100,000 to 1,000,000 to face the challenge! And Astro's sister, Uran, also flies in to lend a helping hand! Plus, in "Mad Machine," a scientist invents a device that causes other machines to go berserk, and Astro Boy must save the day!

Translation by Frederik L. Schodt, author of *Inside the Robot Kingdom* and translator of *Barefoot Gen*.

www.darkhorse.com

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